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Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-93-079
Tuesday
27 April 1993

Daily Report
East Asia

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Japan

Miyazawa on Russian Referendum; Yeltsin Visit Possible

OW2604024093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0153 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Monday [26 April] welcomed news that Russian President Boris Yeltsin is likely to win a vote of popular confidence in Sunday's national referendum.

Miyazawa told reporters that the Russian people are throwing support behind reforms and democracy.

The prime minister said the popular support is not necessarily for Yeltsin himself but for his policies.

A Russian television exit poll of 2,400 people in 16 cities across the world's largest country reportedly gave Yeltsin a massive 75 percent vote of confidence in his presidency.

The Russian referendum consists of four questions—confidence in Yeltsin, support for his government's economic policies, whether an early presidential election is necessary, and whether early parliamentary elections are necessary.

Results of the referendum are expected to be known Monday at the earliest.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono, commenting on prospects for Yeltsin's victory, said working talks would continue on rescheduling the Russian president's visit to Japan.

But the top government spokesman appeared to be cool toward planning the once canceled trip for as early as May.

"I can't say (May) is the likeliest possibility. It is just one choice," Kono told a news conference.

He said another possibility is early summer.

In a related development, a senior government official said Japan would seek to use the visit to confirm its sovereignty over four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido seized by the Soviet Army at the close of World War II.

Analysts say a visit by Yeltsin in advance of the July 7-9 Tokyo summit of leaders of seven major industrialized nations could put Japan at a disadvantage in negotiating a solution to a longstanding territorial dispute.

In view of its role as summit host, Japan has recently toned down its demands for the return of the islands and expressed willingness to provide economic aid to promote democratic reforms in Russia.

Yeltsin is due to meet summit leaders, who are expected to make aid to Russia a major focus of the annual meeting, and informed sources said it would be awkward for Japan to take a forceful stand on the territorial dispute shortly before the summit.

Yeltsin was originally scheduled to come to Tokyo last September, but he canceled the trip at short notice and later accused Japan of being too insistent in its demand for the return of the islands.

Yeltsin said recently he would like to come to Tokyo as early as May. Government sources say Japan has proposed May 25 or 27 as possible dates.

Visit May Be Set for 25-27 May

OW2704022593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0204 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 KYODO—Japanese and Russian officials are trying to finalize dates for a trip to Tokyo in late May by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, official sources said Tuesday [27 April].

The sources said Japan has suggested May 25 to 27 for the visit, his first as Russian president. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze is visiting Tokyo for informal talks with senior Japanese Foreign Ministry officials to work out an itinerary for Yeltsin, the sources added.

Japanese media published reports about the visit as the Russian president survived a confidence vote in Sunday's referendum. Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, in an unusual move, issued a statement before dawn Tuesday welcoming the outcome of the crucial referendum in which Russians rallied behind Yeltsin and his reform drive.

Miyazawa's chief spokesman, Yohei Kono, acknowledged after a Tuesday morning cabinet meeting that Kunadze is in Tokyo for talks with Japanese officials on Yeltsin's projected trip. The YOMIURI SHIMBUN was first with reports Tuesday that Yeltsin is expected to visit May 25 to 27 and that of Kunadze's secret mission. It said the two countries appear to have reached a compromise on how the issue of Japan's claim to four disputed islands off Hokkaido will be handled during Yeltsin's first summit meeting with Miyazawa.

The YOMIURI said Japan will soon dispatch Deputy Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito to Moscow to help finalize the Yeltsin visit. Yeltsin abruptly canceled a scheduled trip to Tokyo last September, citing Japan's stand on the territorial dispute over the four islands captured by Soviet troops at the end of World War II. A government source said Tuesday that Yeltsin told Nobuo Matsunaga, Miyazawa's special emissary, in Moscow on March 27 that he does not want to repeat last year's mistake.

Matsunaga, the special government representative, met Yeltsin to deliver an invitation to a meeting of leaders from the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrialized countries in Tokyo in July. Matsunaga emphasized the need for Yeltsin to come to Japan ahead of the G-7 summit scheduled for July 7-9 and Yeltsin promised he would, the source said.

Muto, Kozyrev To Discuss Yeltsin Visit

OW2704122793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1150 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 KYODO—Foreign Minister Kabun Muto and his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev will discuss the agenda of talks to be pursued during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's proposed May visit to Japan during their earlier encounter in New York in mid-May, government sources said Tuesday [27 April].

The Russo-Japanese foreign ministerial meeting will take place when the two attend a special meeting of foreign ministers from 15 nations comprising the United Nations Security Council, slated for May 19-20, the sources said. Muto and Kozyrev will discuss what approach the two nations will take during Yeltsin's stay in Tokyo toward a longstanding territorial dispute over four islands off Hokkaido which were seized by Russian troops in the waning days of World War II, the sources said. Muto will reiterate that headway on the territorial issue is a prerequisite for Japan to press ahead with a Russian proposal to conclude a peace treaty, the sources said. Japan will ask the Russian Government to use a joint declaration on the territorial issue—made in 1991 by then Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and then Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu—as the starting point for territorial talks during Yeltsin's visit, they said. Japan proposed hosting Yeltsin for three days from May 25 or May 27 when Kozyrev made a three-day visit to Tokyo from April 14 to attend by invitation a meeting of foreign and finance ministers of the Group of Seven major industrialized nations on aid to his country. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze is currently in Tokyo to discuss how to approach the territorial issue with the Japanese side.

The special U.N. Security Council meeting was proposed by the Russian ambassador to the world body, Yuliy Vorontsov, in mid-April as a follow-up to summit talks among the leaders of the U.N. Security Council member states in January. At the January meeting, the leaders discussed enhancing the functions of the world body to counteract the regional military conflicts that have proliferated following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The special May meeting of the Security Council is expected to discuss how to alleviate the agony of Bosnian Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina who are now under severe military attacks by Bosnian Serbs, the sources said. Kozyrev is to take the chairmanship of the May meeting under a system by which the chairmanship rotates among the 15 members of the Security Council.

Reportage on Government's Strategy for G-7 Talks

Officials on Growth, Russian Aid

OW2704120693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1129 GMT 27 Apr 93

[By Ikuji Nakaya]

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 KYODO—Financial leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial economies are expected to kick off a week-long series of international financial conferences in Washington on Thursday [29 April] with discussions of world economic growth, currency exchange rates, and assistance to Russia.

The 13.2 trillion yen (about 120 billion dollars) fiscal stimulus package announced by the Japanese Government earlier this month to boost the national economy out of recession, recovery of the U.S. economy, as well as the lackluster situation in Europe are all expected to be on the table.

Japanese Government officials say the G-7 is likely to agree to cooperate toward achieving sustainable global economic growth through measures like spurring the domestic economy through fiscal stimulation programs, cutting fiscal deficits and lowering interest rates. Japan hopes to persuade its G-7 counterparts that the yen's appreciation against the dollar since February has been too fast and may even cripple the economic revival that the government has forecast would begin later in the current fiscal year.

"Responding to the expectations of foreign governments, Japan is trying hard to stimulate domestic demand," said a senior Finance Ministry official in pointing to the country's largest-ever pump-priming package. The program is expected to raise Japan's economic growth rate by 2.6 percentage points, he said, and increased domestic demand should contribute to easing Japan's mounting trade surplus as well. An appreciation of the yen that impairs the Japanese economy will not only be negative for Japan but also for the global economy, the official said, adding that, "if the topic is brought up in the discussions, we will make that point clear."

The dollar, which was being traded in early February at around 125 yen, has lost more than 10 percent in relation to the yen in less than three months time. Many currency dealers, however, predict the yen's momentum has not yet run its course and that the Japanese unit is likely to keep on climbing against the dollar even after the G-7 meeting, since Japan will probably not succeed in getting other nations to agree to support the dollar.

Further discussions on Western assistance to Russia is expected to take place at the Thursday meeting, following President Boris Yeltsin's apparent victory over the weekend in a referendum concerning confidence in his rule. G-7 finance and foreign ministers convened in Tokyo on April 14-15 to deal exclusively with the Russian aid topic, announcing a financial aid package exceeding 43.4 billion dollars in debt rescheduling as well as pledges of new money. The so-called G-7 is made up of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States.

Japanese Government officials say that discussions of the U.S. proposal on setting up a 4 billion dollar fund to facilitate privatization in Russia will probably not see a major development at this week's meeting. On Friday, a meeting by the "Group of Ten" (G-10; G-7 plus Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Switzerland) [as received], will debate global capital flows and the foreign exchange market. Following the G-10 meeting, the Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will hold its 40th session to discuss world economic growth, currency exchange markets, lending to developing nations, and the transformation of the former centrally-planned economies into market economies. The IMF and the World Bank are also slated to hold their 46th development committee meeting, at which the flow of private sector funds to developing nations will be studied.

Effect of Yen's Rise To Be Noted

OW2604152093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1217 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—Japan will tell the Group of Seven (G-7) partners that a stronger yen will hurt Japan's domestic demand and widen the nation's trade surplus in the short term, a top Finance Ministry official said Monday [26 April].

The official said finance ministers and central bankers of the seven major industrialized countries will discuss global economic coordination, including actions in the currency market, when they meet in Washington next Thursday. "I will tell (my G-7 counterparts at the gathering) that the recent strength of the yen will have a negative effect on Japan's domestic demand expansion, and will temporarily widen Japan's (trade) surplus," the official said.

Hayashi: Yen Rate To Be Discussed

OW2704034393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0323 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 KYODO—Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi said Tuesday [27 April] that the yen's recent advance in currency markets could be high on the agenda at a meeting of Group of Seven (G-7) top finance officials on Thursday in Washington.

"The global economy will be discussed from a macroeconomic viewpoint," Hayashi told a news conference. "Foreign exchange issues could be talked about as one topic."

Hayashi suggested that he may urge his counterparts at the G-7 meeting to work together to cap the yen's surge, saying there has been no change in Japan's stance on the yen.

Hayashi and other Finance Ministry officials have voiced concern about the yen's advance to postwar record highs against the dollar in recent weeks.

Finance ministers and central bank governors of the G-7—Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States—meet in Washington Thursday ahead of the joint meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

Hayashi said he does not expect other G-7 countries to press Japan to lower its interest rates to spur domestic demand, although the IMF suggested in a report there is room for Japan to do so.

The IMF report forecast that Japan's economy will grow at an inflation-adjusted pace of 1.3 percent in calendar 1993.

But Hayashi said he believes that Japan's economic growth will be faster than the IMF projection, and suggested that Tokyo can attain its 3.3 percent growth target for fiscal 1993. He said the economy should pick up in the January to March quarter of 1994.

Turning to domestic interest rates, Hayashi said basic lending rates charged by governmental financial institutions could be pegged at current levels despite a rise in the long-term prime rate in May.

Japan's three long-term credit banks said Monday they will raise their long-term prime rate by 0.2 percent point to 5.1 percent per annum in May.

The long-term prime rate serves as a trend-setter in Japan's financial market, affecting a range of domestic interest rates.

Official Criticizes Yen's Appreciation

OW2704052993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0440 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 KYODO—A senior Finance Ministry official said Tuesday [27 April] the yen's appreciation against the U.S. dollar in the past two or three months is "too rapid" and could damage Japan's effort to stimulate its economy while also boosting the politically sensitive trade surplus in the short run.

The official, asking not to be named, said Japan will explain its stance at a possible gathering by top finance officials from the Group of Seven (G-7) major economies in Washington Thursday, but added no other country is seeking a further advance of the yen.

He said the "overreaction" in the market following various remarks by financial authorities and government officials seems to have cooled down compared with several weeks ago, and the official predicted the dollar is likely to rebound against the Japanese unit as the market realizes that it has gone too far in too short a period.

With regard to speculation that Japan may cut its official discount rate, to throw cold water on the yen's rise, the official said that is unlikely considering the key lending rate is already at historically low levels.

The official said G-7 finance ministers and central bank governors are expected to discuss world economic growth, currency exchange rates and assistance to Russia.

Article Examines Effects of Yen Rise on U.S. Trade

OW2604235293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0020 GMT 26 Apr 93

["News Focus" article by Antonio Kamiya; first in a four-part series on the strong yen: "Strong Yen a Magnet for U.S. Goods in Japan"]

[Text] Washington, April 25 KYODO—Boyd Lewis, a small apparels exporter, is gleeful these days about news coming out from Japan.

As the yen has shot up 10 percent in value against the dollar since the beginning of the year, Lewis figures his business would at least pick up an equivalent gain in new business if not even more.

"That is really great news," he gushed.

While Japanese exporters fret about how to fight off the latest round of "endaka" and stay afloat in their business, U.S. business executives like Lewis are figuring out how to enhance sales in the Japanese market if the strong yen sustains.

Or at least they should, economists say.

"When we have such a severe change in the foreign exchange value, it does affect the pricing quite a bit," said Dan Seto, an economist with Nikko Securities International, a Japanese-affiliated brokerage in New York.

He is referring to the simple economic theory that a higher yen makes U.S. goods cheaper and hence more competitive in Japan, and Japanese goods more expensive, therefore less competitive in the United States.

Economists doubt, however, whether the average U.S. manager is fully aware of such pricing advantages.

Douglas Ostrom, a senior economist at the Japan Economic Institute of America, says while managers might be tempted to go more aggressively into the Japanese market, a stronger yen could pose psychological roadblocks.

The argument is that since a stronger yen means Americans have to pay more dollars to get the same amount of the yen, everything suddenly becomes more expensive in Japan.

This covers everything from a cup of coffee in Tokyo to the yen-based salary of a new sales representative, not to mention the price of office and land, which is already prohibitively high to American eyes.

"From the dollar perspective, everything looks that much more expensive in Japan when the yen goes up," Ostrom said.

However, Ostrom contends that scenario is not true. "What headquarters in America forget is that the costs for Japanese rivals have also gone up, even more," he explains.

That apparent riddle, Ostrom argues, is that U.S. businesses enjoy a more competitive position because they can fall back on cheaper dollar-based supplies to operate in Japan.

"It is a matter of convincing top American management that they need to make a bigger commitment to Japan," Ostrom says.

As a strong yen is likely to suck more U.S. goods into Japan, Ostrom says Japanese businesses are likely to face a "double whammy," particularly those who count on sales to the U.S. market.

Apart from increased competition at home from cheap imports, economists say a strong yen will likely force Japanese companies to raise the dollar price of their export products to maintain the same level of return in the yen.

The alternative is further cost cutting or a squeeze in profits, both stomach-churning options.

Even though a stronger yen appears to be a cure-all prescription for closing the large trade gap between Japan and the U.S., from the U.S. perspective there could be a flip side to the rosy scenario, at least over the short run.

Japanese exporters, economists say, can raise prices and get away with it, particularly in markets where they are the only or dominant suppliers.

This seems to be the case involving consumer electronics and other Japanese products for which U.S. consumers have developed strong brand loyalties.

"For a lot of these consumer electronics, we really don't have an American alternative," Seto says.

But not over time as other lower-cost suppliers join the market.

"Within a year—assuming that the yen does not reverse course again—we will see a rather significant impact on the U.S.-Japan trade balance," Ostrom said.

Effects on Japanese Exporters Noted

OW2704000493 Tokyo KYODO in English 2329 GMT 26 Apr 93

["News Focus" article by Hisa Miyatake; second in a four-part series on the strong yen: "Japan's Exporters Surviving Yen's Surge Against Dollar"]

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 KYODO—Japanese export-oriented companies like auto producers, home electronic appliance makers and machinery firms are doing everything they can to survive the yen's recent sharp rise.

"One dollar equals 110 yen. It's beyond our company's best efforts to make a profit. I'm sure I hear other exporting companies screaming every time the yen goes up," said a senior official of Seiko Epson Corp.

The yen has surged nearly 10 percent in value against the dollar in the past several weeks. In 1992 the U.S. currency had an average value of 127 yen.

Many economists say the yen's rise is inevitable.

But the recent surge, which started in February, is "too high-paced," upsetting exporters.

Yutaka Kume, head of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, said the yen's surge will hurt export industries and cool general business activity as it headed for recovery.

Kume, also chairman of Nissan Motor Co., said car sales in the first 20 days of April dropped more than 10 percent over the same period last year.

Japan's auto industry, which depends on exports for about 45 percent of its revenue, stands to lose 300 billion yen every time the dollar drops 10 yen.

An official of Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd. said many automakers set their business accounts for the April to October period on the basis of the dollar fluctuating between 115 yen and 120 yen.

As a result they were forced to hike the price of cars sold in the U.S. market by between 200 dollars and 400 dollars.

"If the yen rises further, Japanese auto companies will be less competitive. Retail prices are too high. There is no benefit for American consumers," the Fuji official said.

The yen's rise also has forced Japanese corporations to review production and financial systems.

Josei Ito, president of Nippon Life Insurance Company, said "Japanese companies have so far repeatedly managed to absorb the adverse effects of the yen's rise. But the stronger yen this time is totally different from past appreciation."

Ito said Japanese business world will need total restructuring of corporate operations if the dollar continues to decline to 100 yen.

Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries Co. has decided to raise its material procurement rate from overseas from the current 30 percent to 50 percent, while Fuji Heavy Industries is thinking of importing aluminum from the United States for aircraft production.

Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. has been studying ways to curtail expenses like utilities and even a cup of coffee for in-house business meetings.

A Matsushita spokesman said, "So long as our company depends on imported materials, we should enjoy a certain type of a windfall profit from the yen's rise."

Meanwhile, some export-oriented companies are thinking about cutting labor costs to maintain profitability.

Masahiro Yamamoto, managing director of Kyocera Corp., which depends on exports for 40 percent of sales, said the company will strengthen its corporate structure to cope with the dollar hitting 100 yen.

Yamamoto told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that Japan's leading high-tech company plans to boost sales by 33 percent in three years by keeping its work force at the current level.

Despite such countermeasures by exporters, import-oriented food, oil, gas and electricity industries—which also benefited from the yen's surge—have not yet passed the windfall on to other industries and consumers.

Sho Nasu, chairman of the Federation of Electric Power Companies, said, "Because of crude oil price rises, our industry is not planning to cut power rates despite the yen's rise."

Nasu's remark at a news conference came amid growing calls to pull down power rates to reflect the yen's surge.

A senior economist of Fuji Research Institute said, "The yen's rise itself has a bright side for the Japan's economy."

Consumer prices should fall to stimulate the nation's sluggish economy if such industries cut their prices because of the yen's advance, he added.

Cabinet To Approve Personnel for Mozambique, Cambodia

OW2604093893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0902 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—The cabinet will approve plans Tuesday [27 April] to deploy 53 Japanese peacekeepers for United Nations activities in Mozambique as well as an additional 50 civilian election monitors for Cambodia, government officials said Monday.

The dispatch of the civilian election monitors will be in addition to an earlier-approved deployment of a 600-member Self-Defense Forces team to replace Japanese peacekeeping troops stationed in Cambodia, they said.

UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on Saturday formally requested the Japanese Government to dispatch peacekeepers to Mozambique, they said.

Following cabinet approval, the government will begin sending the 53 peacekeepers to Mozambique in several installations starting on May 11. Japan will begin dispatching election monitors to Cambodia after May 10, they said.

The cabinet will also approve a request by the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) that SDF personnel now engaged in civil engineering projects provide meals and facilities for election monitors, the officials said.

The war-ravaged nation will hold a general election from May 23 to 28 to elect legislators to a parliament to draft a constitution. As the elections near, local fears are on the rise that the Khmer Rouge guerrillas may renew military hostilities to disrupt the vote.

Cabinet Authorizes Dispatch

OW2704033593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0237 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 KYODO—The government formally decided Tuesday [27 April] to dispatch 53 Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel to Mozambiqae and a further 50 to Cambodia in response to United Nations requests.

The decision was made in a meeting of the Security Council and later at a cabinet session.

The SDF contingent to Mozambique will include a 48-member transportation maintenance unit.

Five officers participating in an individual capacity will also be attached to the U.N. military command in the African country to drawup plans for the particiption of infantry and other units which is currently frozen under Japan's Peacekeeping Operations Law.

The Diet will convene Wednesday to hear an interim report on peacekeeping operations from the government.

The government will dispatch an advance party from the transportation maintenance unit on May 11 and the remainder of the unit on May 15. The unit will stay in Mozambique until November 30.

But because elections in the country, which were scheduled for the autumn, now look like being postponed until May or June next year, the unit's return to Japan is likely to be considerably delayed.

The unit will be responsible for transporting personnel and supplies as well as assisting customs officials in their duties.

The five officers will monitor the operations of the transportation program in addition to drawing up plans for the participation of other units.

The unit will take 20 four-wheel drive vehicles, 46 revolvers, and seven rifles.

The unit going to Cambodia will depart on May 12.

In addition to monitoring the election in Cambodia until early June, the unit's members will construct facilities and housing and carry supplies for UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] election monitors.

Personnel going to Mozambique will receive daily allowances varying between 8,000 and 16,000 yen.

Those going to Cambodia will receive allowances varying between 8,000 and 20,000 yen.

Defense Chief: Transport Planes Not To Be Sent Abroad

OW2704120493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1118 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 KYODO—Japan will not dispatch military transport planes to war-torn foreign countries to pick up Japanese residents if large-scale conflicts are either imminent or under way there, the nation's defense chief said Tuesday [27 April].

Toshio Nakayama, director general of the Defense Agency, told a House of Representatives plenary session it is difficult for the government to carry out the airlift of Japanese nationals to Japan under such circumstances as ongoing fighting in the countries concerned. "It is difficult for (the agency) to attain the target of airlifting Japanese people by Air Self-Defense Force transport planes unless the safety of airports and air routes in the countries is assured," Nakayama said.

Nakayama made the remarks in reply to questions from both ruling and opposition party Diet members after the government explained the need for revision of the Self-Defense Forces Law in connection with the emergency dispatch of military transport planes to war-devastated countries in order to rescue Japanese residents there. The government submitted a bill on the revision of the law to an ordinary Diet session on March 10 last year in hopes of securing the lives of Japanese living in foreign countries.

Nakayama said the agency will send C-130 transport and other government planes to the countries without fighter escorts if the bill passes the Diet and large-scale conflicts are not imminent. He said there is a possibility that guards aboard the planes would be armed with pistols to deal with hijacking attempts and other dangerous situations during rescue operations.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa also called on lawmakers to see the bill through parliament, saying, "the government must prepare for emergency cases" (of Japanese nationals being stranded in war-torn countries). The prime minister cited the collapse of Saigon, now named Ho Chi Minh City, in the closing stages of the Vietnam war in April 1975, saying Japan could not then fly civilian airliners into the city.

Vice Foreign Minister Proposes Conference on Cambodia

OW2604094693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0931 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 26 KYODO—Vice Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa on Monday [26 April] informally proposed an international conference for mid-May in Cambodia in an effort to keep the threatened peace process from being derailed there.

The conference would be held prior to general elections scheduled for May 23 to 28 and include representatives of the Khmer Rouge. The guerrilla group refuses to observe the 1991 Paris peace accord it signed with three other Cambodian factions and says it will boycott the elections.

Kakizawa also vowed that Japan will cooperate in staging the elections when he met with Yasushi Akashi, chief of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

The Japanese parliamentary vice foreign minister made his suggestion for the international forum at an expanded conference of representatives from the UN Security Council's permanent member nations and 10 countries with ambassadors in Cambodia.

Kakizawa suggested the conference be held after the Supreme National Council meeting on May 6 in the province of Siem Reap, which is close to Khmer Rouge strongholds.

In his meeting with Akashi, Kakizawa reaffirmed Tokyo's cooperation with peace efforts in Cambodia and said a cabinet decision was expected this week on the dispatch of monitors for the elections.

He also requested that the United Nations provide protection for its volunteers overseeing the elections.

To assure the safety of volunteers, Akashi explained that UNTAC was considering having them avoid unnecessary movements, strengthening security arrangements with military personnel, and withdrawing to military bases if attacked.

Miyazawa Previews Australia-New Zealand Visit

OW2704104193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1025 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Tuesday [27 April] on the eve of his departure for Australia and New Zealand that "diversity" and "openness" are keywords for Japan's outlook on the Asia-Pacific.

Speaking at a send-off party in advance of his April 29-May 2 trip, Miyazawa also said the visit will round off his consultations with Asian neighbors in preparation for the July Tokyo summit of major industrialized nations.

Miyazawa met with leaders of Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Brunei during a swing through Southeast Asia in January, and leaders of the Philippines and Singapore have or will visit Japan before the July 7-9 annual Group of Seven economic summit meeting.

"That leaves Australia and New Zealand," Miyazawa said in remarks to accompanying reporters and government officials.

Miyazawa is expected to discuss Cambodia, stability of the Asia-Pacific region, North Korea and the future of regional economic cooperation in talks with Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating and New Zealand Prime Minister James Bolger. He will be the first Japanese premier to visit the region in five years.

LDP's Hata Not Planning To Join JNP Reform Bloc

OW2704063593 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1021 GMT 26 Apr 93

[From "News 7" program]

[Text] Tsutomu Hata, leader of the Hata faction of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], gave a press interview in Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, today. In the interview, he said that he would not now join the committee to prepare for political power change as proposed by the Japan New Party [JNP] but that he would rather stay within the LDP to carry out political reform. JNP representative Morihiro Hosokawa recently proposed gathering representatives from reformist forces to set up a committee to prepare for a shift in political power. Touching on this proposal, he first stated that reform of the electoral system is intended to make change in government possible, and then he welcomed the fact that in the course of discussing this issue, moves are now being made to organize new forces through the appeal of JNP representative Hosokawa and others. However, Hata also stated that his faction intends to carry out reform as LDP members, and he expressed his intention not to participate at this point in the preparatory committee for changing the political regime as proposed by Hosokawa.

On the other hand, JNP representative Hosokawa had informal talks with the press today and stated that if the current session should fail to enact political reform bills, the general election for the Lower House might be held under the current multiple-seat constituency system as early as this summer. He stated that in such a case, it would be necessary for his party to clearly indicate its independent position as a new party and to carry out a campaign in the election; that even if the Hata faction were to leave the LDP, it would probably be difficult for the JNP to link up with them; and that it would also be difficult for the JNP to link up with other so-called reformist forces.

Meanwhile, Sadao Yamahama, chairman of the Social Democratic Party, held a news conference in Fukuoka Prefecture today. Regarding the proposal for combining the single-seat constituency system and the proportional representation constituency system as put forth by the Private Ad Hoc Council on Political Reform [PAHC], he stated that it has been criticized as being too difficult to understand, that it has some good points because it may help the voters clearly understand how political funds are spent, and that in the course of deliberations over this issue carried out among various parties, he would like to exchange opinions with the Komeito as early as following the long holidays [ending 5 May].

Moreover, speaking at the party central committee session, Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida said that political reform should not be a precondition for dissolving the House of Representatives to hold the general election and that discussions of the lower house's dissolution itself is a negative trend and meaningless. He then stressed his views that no plans should be made for dissolving the lower house to hold the general election at the current Diet sessions and that the utmost efforts should be made to achieve political reform, including the reform of the electoral system. Komeito Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa said that if the PAHC proposal were to be regarded as a desirable one, we should consider joining the parties and groups that agree to this proposal to work out and submit a bill to the Diet.

Automobile Exports Fall 2.9% in Fiscal Year 1992

OW2704085393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0820 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 KYODO—Japan's exports of cars, trucks, and buses in fiscal 1992 dropped 2.9 percent from the previous year due to sluggish sales in the United States and Europe, an industry association reported Tuesday [27 April].

The Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association said the decrease was the first in three years. Exports, of which nearly 60 percent are bound for the American and European markets, totaled 5,657,615 vehicles in the fiscal year ended March 31. Car exports to the U.S. were particularly slow, totaling 1,566,839 units, down 9.5 percent from the year before, and slipping below the voluntary shipment quota of 1.65 million units for the sixth straight year, the association said.

The association said overall car exports totaled 4,414,750 units, down 2.3 percent from the year before, recording the first year-on-year decline in three years. Truck exports were down 7.4 percent at 1,161,118 units, extending the declining streak to seven years, it said. The total value of exports rose 9.3 percent to 82.01 billion dollars, the association said.

By region, exports to the U.S. totaled 1,736,956 units, down 14.1 percent, while those to Europe were down 7.2 percent to 1,605,098 units, the association said. Exports to Asia and Latin America, however, scored double-digit growth and those to China more than doubled, it said. In March, the association said exports gained 6.1 percent over the year before to 562,791 vehicles due to brisk sales to China and Thailand, posting the first year-on-year rise in sixth months.

North Korea

Ministry Calls U.S. 'International Terrorist State'

SK2704103993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 27 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry, replied to a question put by KCNA Tuesday about recent provocative remarks of the U.S. CIA director against the DPRK in regard to international terrorism. He said:

According to a foreign press report, the U.S. CIA director, referring to international terrorism at the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 21, said North Korea is one of the six countries on the U.S. State Department's list of "terrorist states" at present.

This is an absolute baloney reversing black and white.

Nobody doubts that the United States which has engaged itself in acts of terrorism and aggression, interfering in the internal affairs of other countries up until now, is an international terrorist state and that the U.S. CIA is the chieftain of terrorist plotters.

The United States which has tried its hardest to do harm to the DPRK over the fictitious "nuclear problem" with malicious threats and pressure now brought even its intelligence chief to sling mud at the country with a totally unfounded and unreasonable, far-fetched argument calling it a "terrorist state". This vividly reveals how persistently they are maneuvering to isolate and stifle the DPRK.

The United States must stop interfering in the internal affairs of other countries, strong-arm acts it has resorted to in the cold war era, before speaking ill of others, and set right its wrong policy, above all.

It is a fact known to the world that the DPRK Government is opposed to all manner of terrorist acts including state terrorism, and there is no need to argue about it any more.

Cambodia's Sihanouk Completes Pyongyang Visit

Hosts Film Show, Party

SK2404104693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 24 (KCNA)—His Royal Highness [H.R.H.] Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, who is on an official goodwill visit to Korea, hosted a film show and a cocktail party here Friday.

Invited there were Cho Kyu-il, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs, other officials concerned, diplomatic envoys and embassy officials of various countries in Pyongyang.

H.R.H. Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and his entourage were present.

The participants saw the feature films "Beacon Lighting Our Path" and "My Village at Sunset" made by His Royal Highness.

The film show was followed by a cocktail party.

H.R.H. Samdech Norodom Sihanouk made a speech at the party.

Then Syrian ambassador to Korea Yasir Farah, doyen of the diplomatic corps, spoke.

Meets Kim Il-song at Guest House

SK2604112893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1053 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 26 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today called on His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, who is leaving Korea after a visit, at the guest house.

President Kim Il-song was met at the guest house by His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and his entourage.

The Samdech expressed deep thanks to President Kim Il-song for the hospitality accorded him during the visit.

President Kim Il-song had a cordial talk with His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and exchanged words of parting.

Ends Visit 27 Apr

SK2704053893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 27 (KCNA)—His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, who had been paying an official goodwill visit to Korea upon the invitation of President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea left Pyongyang today by special plane.

H.R.H. Samdech and his party were cordially seen off at the airport by Vice-President Yi Chong-ok, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and other officials concerned.

Foreign diplomatic envoys in Pyongyang were present there.

A farewell function was held at the airport.

H.R.H. Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, in company with Vice-President Yi Chong-ok, reviewed a guard of honor of the three services of the Korean People's Army.

The friendship envoy of the Cambodian people was farewelled by thousands of cheering people at the airport.

Thai Parliamentary Delegation Begins Pyongyang Visit

Welcomed by SPA Chairman

SK2604111393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1051 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 26 (KCNA)—A delegation of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand headed by its President Marut Bunnak arrived here today at the invitation of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It was met at the airport by chairman of the SPA Yang Hyong-sop and officials concerned.

A welcome ceremony took place at the airport.

Holds Talks With SPA Group

SK2704052493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0419 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 27 (KCNA)—Talks were held between a delegation of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] and a delegation of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand at the Mansudae Assembly Hall Monday.

Present on the Korean side were SPA Chairman Yang Hyong-sop, member of the SPA Standing Committee Yu Ho-chun, deputy to the SPA Yu Kyu-tong and other officials concerned, and on the opposite side members of the delegation led by president of the National Assembly Marut Bunnak.

The talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

On the same day, Chairman Yang Hyong-sop met and had a friendly talk at the Mansudae Assembly Hall with the Thai parliamentary delegation led by Marut Bunnak which paid a courtesy call on him.

Attends Banquet Hosted by SPA

SK2704052793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 27 (KCNA)—The Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] hosted a banquet at the Mansudae Assembly Hall Monday evening for the visiting delegation of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand led by its President Marut Bunnak.

In his speech at the banquet, SPA Chairman Yang Hyong-sop noted that the Thai Government and people under the correct leadership of His Majesty King PHUMIPHON Adunyadet were registering many successes in the efforts to fulfil the seventh five-year plan for the democratic development and socio-economic prosperity of the country and the promotion of the people's welfare. Warmly hailing the achievements made by the Thai people, he said:

"We note with high appreciation that the Thai Government, in the external relations, is favourably developing friendly and cooperative relations with many countries of the world and especially taking good initiatives for peace and cooperation in Asia."

He expressed the belief that when Korea and Thailand continue to strengthen friendly and cooperative relations based on the common idea of independence, peace and friendship, they would achieve common prosperity and progress and greatly contribute to the cause of peace in Asia and the world. "We will do all we can to consolidate the friendly and cooperative relations between our two peoples," he stated.

In his speech, Marut Bunnak said exchange between the parliaments of the two countries was going on smoothly.

He expressed the hope that the friendly relations between the two countries and two peoples would steadily develop through the two parliaments.

"We are watching with keen interest the developments of the political and military situation in Korea," he said. "We hope the Korean people will achieve national reunification with their own efforts without outside interference."

"Korea's development is a good example for the world," he said, expressing the hope that the DPRK would attain constant prosperity.

Meets With SPA Chairman

SK2704092593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA], today met with a delegation of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand headed by President of the National Assembly Marut Bunnak which paid a courtesy call on him at the Mansudae Assembly Hall. The talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Present there were functionaries concerned.

Cultural Exchange Agreement Signed With India

SK2504085393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0828 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 25 (KCNA)—A 1993-1995 plan for cultural exchange between the governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of India was signed in New Delhi on April 20.

It was signed by vice-chairwoman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries Chon Yon-ok and joint secretary in charge of the Department of Culture of the Ministry of Human Resources Development of India Komalazd.

Syrian Government Economic Group Returns Home

SK2704092993 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] The Syrian Government economic delegation headed by Minister of State for Planning 'Abd-al-Rahim Subay'i today returned home by airplane.

At the airport, the delegation was seen off by functionaries concerned including Yi Song-tae, chairman of the State External Economic Affairs Commission.

Kim Il-song Receives Messages From Heads of State

SK2304090693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0428 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 23 (KCNA)—Congratulatory letters and messages came to President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from heads of state of various countries on the occasion of his birthday.

They came from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization; Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda; Albert Zafy, President of the Republic of Madagascar; Sam Nujoma, President of the Republic of Namibia; Andre Kolingba, President and head of state of the Central African Republic; Valentine Strasser, head of state and chairman of the National Provisional Ruling Council of Sierra Leone; and Jerry John Rawlings, President of the Republic of Ghana.

They extended warm felicitations to President Kim Il-song on his birthday and expressed the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and their countries would develop on good terms.

They wished President Kim Il-song good health and long life.

Embassy in PRC Hosts Reception on KPA Anniversary

SK2704092793 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Our country's Embassy in China hosted a reception on 24 April on the occasion of the 61st anniversary of the founding of the heroic Korean People's Army [KPA].

A portrait of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was respectfully placed in the front of the reception hall.

Invited to the reception were Xu Huizi, Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army [PLA]; assistant to the director of the General Political Department; deputy director of the General Logistics Department; the Navy Political Commissar and deputy Air Force Political Commissar, and other commanders of the PLA, together with functionaries concerned.

At the reception, Kim Pyong-ho, military attache in our country's Embassy in China, and Xu Huizi, deputy Chief of General Staff of the PLA, made speeches.

The participants in the reception toasted to the invincible militant friendship and unity forged between the peoples and armies of DPRK and China; to the good health and long life of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song; to the good health and long life of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, and to good health and long life of esteemed Comrades Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin and Li Peng.

The reception proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Party, Government Officials Visit KPA Units

SK2504095793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0901 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 25 (KCNA)—Senior officials of the party and government visited units of three services of the Korean People's Army [KPA] and units of the Korean People's Security Forces [KPSF] on the occasion of the 61st anniversary of the foundation of the heroic Korean People's Army.

Politburo members and secretaries of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Kye Ung-tae and Han Song-yong, Politburo member of the C.C., the WPK and chief secretary of the South Pyongan Provincial Party Committee and chairman of the provincial people's committee So Yun-sok, alternate members of the Political Bureau and secretaries of the C.C., the WPK Choe Tae-pok and Kim Yong-sun, secretaries of the C.C., the WPK, vice-premiers of the Administration Council, leading officials of the commissions and ministries of the Administration Council and the central organs, local party and government organs and working people's organisations called at units of the three services of the KPA and units of the KPSF.

The party and government cadres conveyed valuable gifts sent by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, to the units.

Moved by the loving care of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in sending the party and government cadres to them and making them convey the valuable gifts on the founding anniversary of the KPA, the soldiers firmly plegded themselves to resolutely defend the party and the leader politically and ideologically with their lives and reliably guarantee the revolutionary cause of chuche with arms.

The party and government senior officials saw the combat and political training and life of the soldiers who are striving to staunchly defend the security of the motherland and people and encouraged them to foster their giant strength of a-match-for-a hundred as soldiers of comrade supreme commander.

Cooperative Farms Begin Spring Plowing, Sowing

SK2304043393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1514 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 22 (KCNA)—Cooperative farms in North Pyongan Province are busy with spring plowing and sowing.

The Province situated in the Northwestern part of Korea holds a big proportion in the agricultural production of the nation.

40 percent of the arable land of the province is paddy field. Rice accounts for 50 percent of grain output.

The province has vast plains in Pakchon, Unjon, Yomju and Yongchon along the west coast and many rivers and streams such as Amnok, Taeryong and Chongchon rivers.

Although it had favorable conditions for agricultural production, the province could not do successful farming because of shortage of water before the liberation of the country. At that time, paddy fields accounted only for 18 percent of the arable land.

After liberation, the province put big efforts into irrigation and nature-remaking projects, built more than 50 reservoirs, some 2,700 water pumping stations and the Amnok River irrigation network watering 90,000 hectares of paddy and nonpaddy fields and the 50-km Chongchon River irrigation network.

In recent years Taechon Power Station No. 5-Unjon-Chongju-Kwaksan water channel has been excavated.

The land under irrigation had been expanded by 1,200 hectares and the pondage by 60 percent by the end of last year as against 1980.

The province has steadily increased the area of arable land by reclaiming tideland and cultivating new land.

The level of the mechanization of agriculture is high.

The cooperative farms have tractors, trucks, rice-transplanting machines, rice-seedling plucking machines and other modern farm machines and do nearly all farming with machines. The number of the farm machines is on a yearly increase. The number of the tractors jumped 46 percent, that of trucks 68 percent and that of rice-transplanting machines 37 percent over the last decade.

The number of the agro-technicians rose 90.3 percent in the same period.

The amount of chemical fertilizers applied to fields has augumented by a large margin. This year, the province plans to apply 80 percent as more chemical fertilizers as last year.

The grain output is on a steady increase. Last year's rice output was 50 percent up and maize output 80 percent up above 1970.

Ideology Viewed as Source of Military's Strength

SK2504063993 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0020 GMT 24 Apr 93

[NODONG SINMUN 24 April special article: "Political and Ideological Superiority Is the Source of the People's Armed Forces' Invincible Might"]

[Text] Our people's Armed Forces are ever-victorious revolutionary armed forces boundlessly loyal to the party and the leader and the reliable defenders of the chuche-oriented socialist cause.

Today, our people are resolutely crushing the imperialists' vicious antisocialist offensives and reckless war commotions and highly displaying the chuche Korea's dignity and honor. This is because there are matchless, strong armed forces and invincible people's armed forces that are strongly united around the respected and beloved supreme commander.

We are upholding the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, an iron-willed commander, as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA] and chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission, and the entire Army is united ideologically, volitionally, and morally into a single entity. This is political and ideological superiority which only our Armed Forces have. This is also the source of our Armed Forces' invincible might with which they can defeat any enemy at a blow.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has pointed out: Political and ideological superiority is essential to the revolutionary Armed Forces and a source of their invincible might with which they can crush any aggressor and win victory. Political and ideological superiority is a key to revolutionary armed forces' defeating a numerically and technologically superior enemy.

Confrontation with the enemy is the confrontation of mental strength, and the Armed Forces' ideological and mental strength, not their weapons and equipment or military and technological factors, determines victory or defeat in a war.

Only armed forces which are well prepared politically and ideologically and which have confidence in victory can overpower the enemy and demonstrate their invincible might. Revolutionary armed forces are superior when they have political, ideological, military, and moral strength.

A firm belief in the justness of one's cause and a sure victory; an ardent love for one's fatherland and people; burning hatred for the enemy; a noble revolutionary obligation; and an indomitable revolutionary spirit are ideological and mental qualities that only revolutionary armed forces can have. They are a source of their strength with which they can display incomparable courage, a firm will, a strong fighting spirit, and patience in a fight against the enemy.

Our people's Armed Forces are not only modern armed forces which have modern means of offense and defense and high military and technological capabilities but also invincible ranks that are best prepared politically and ideologically in history.

Our people's Armed Forces have political and ideological superiority because they are boundlessly loyal to the party and the leader. Revolutionary armed forces are those of the party and those of the leader [suryong]. The leader [suryong] is not only the cultivator and leader of the revolutionary cause but also the founder and supreme leader [yongdoja] of the revolutionary Armed Forces.

Only under the leadership of the party and the leader, can revolutionary armed forces be strengthened and developed into invincible ranks and fulfill their mission of militarily guaranteeing the implementation of the revolutionary cause. Therefore, loyalty to the party and the leader is the life of the revolutionary Armed Forces, a basic factor that determines their existence, and a basic yardstick measuring their political and ideological strength.

Only when revolutionary armed forces are boundlessly loyal to their party and their leader, can they maintain their revolutionary character, strongly guarantee the implementation of the revolutionary cause on military terms, and make a boast of being invincible, strong armed forces.

Our people's Armed Forces are honorable revolutionary armed forces that were founded with loyalty toward the party and the leader, which is their life, and have been endlessly strengthened and developed and have won every battle with this loyalty, their ideological and mental weapon. Since they declared their birth in the forests of Paektu under the great leader's leadership, our people's Armed Forces have walked along the single road of loyalty under the leadership of the party and the leader and boundlessly displayed their might as armed forces of the leader [suryong] and those of the party.

Our revolutionary Armed Forces defeated one million Japanese imperialist troops amid the cold wintry winds of Paektu; mercilessly defeated the U.S. imperialist forces of aggression, which were known as the strongest in the world, in the flames of war; resolutely crushed repeated enemy provocations and war commotions; and, thus, strongly defended the chuche-oriented socialist cause with arms. The basic source of their boundless mental strength with which they did so was the boundless loyalty to the party and the leader.

Our People's Army's faithfulness to the party and the leader is being displayed more greatly at a new, higher level today, when it upholds the dear comrade leader as the top of the revolutionary Armed Forces.

The faithfulness our People's Army soldiers have today is a really clear and pure ideological feeling coming from its endless honor and pride in upholding the most outstanding man of our time, who is a military talent, as their supreme commander and coming from the optimism and faith in certain victory that they will achieve a victory without fail as they have the great, brilliant commander. It is also a noble spiritual and moral trait which is expressed in their firm will to live and die with their leader [yongdoja] to the last under any stormy circumstances.

Pak Yong-chol and his seven brothers, who are Army officers, sent a letter to the dear comrade leader, expressing their determination to become eight rifles that defend and protect the party and the leader [suryong]. This shows how great the loyalty of our People's Army soldiers with resolution to protect and uphold their leader [yongdoja] is.

"Let's give our lives for fighting for the great leader and dear comrade leader." This is a slogan of loyalty upheld by our People's Army today.

All commanders and soldiers are fervent with a determined soul to believe in and rely on the party and the leader only and to protect and defend the party, the leader, and the revolution by throwing themselves in order to defeat the enemy.

Because of their this great loyalty and noble spiritual and moral trait, our People's Army is never be afraid of any strong enemy and can easily smash all enemies no matter how superior they are in number and technology to us.

The political and ideological superiority of our People's Army lies in the firmly established discipline of the entire Army that unconditionally implements the supreme commander's idea, intent, orders, and instructions.

Revolutionary discipline and order is an important feature of a revolutionary army. A revolutionary army is controlled by iron-firm discipline and order based on high-spirited self-awakening and awareness. This is a revolutionary army's essential feature different from an imperialist army which is maintained by pressure. This is the source of its invincible might, as well.

Today our People's Army has thoroughly established in it iron-firm discipline and order, in which the entire Army acts as one under the leadership of the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander.

The entire Army is filled with revolutionary military airs of carrying out military building and all military activities in conformity with the respected and beloved supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il's idea and intent, and of thoroughly implementing the party's orders and instructions absolutely and unconditionally.

During the period of the semi-war state, the entire Army rose like a mountain and assumed a complete combat posture to sternly crush any enemy, upholding the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander's order. This is a courageous demonstration of our People's Army's strong sense of organization and discipline and its extraordinary combat strength.

The revolutionary discipline and order firmly established in our People's Army is not based on the simple sense of military duty. Of course, it is an army's duty to act according to orders, instructions, and military standard and way of behavior, in obedience and order. No other army, however, has higher level of sense of awakening and awareness than our revolutionary People's Army, which accepts the duty as their own life-and-death demand and implements them unconditionally to the last.

The revolutionary discipline and order of our People's Army is based on its high-spirited self-awakening of finding the greatest honor of life and happiness in living and acting only according to the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander's idea and intent and in thoroughly implementing his orders and instructions. It is also based on the firm faith that it will surely achieve a victory without fail as long as it has the supreme commander. Herein is the might of the revolutionary military appearance and attitude established in our People's Army.

As it acts under this iron-firm discipline and order, our People's Army is greatly demonstrating its majestic appearance as iron ranks, which completely implement assigned military duties under any circumstances, and as a matchless revolutionary army with high-level combat strength.

The political and ideological superiority of our People's Army lies also in that the entire Army is a untied body with one ideology and will, which is united themselves and united with the people.

Unity is a noble political and moral trait of a revolutionary army. A revolutionary army can be firmly united themselves with revolutionary sense of duty and comradeship due to its concurrence in ideology and common class situation.

The secret that enables a revolutionary army to finally achieve a victory under any difficult war situation is concurrence in ideology between commanders and soldiers and that between soldiers in higher and lower ranks and their firm unity based on the revolutionary sense of duty and comradeship.

Our People's Army has brilliantly realized the unity between officers and men and between party members and League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea [LSWYK] members, thus achieving the harmony and unity of the entire Army at a highest level.

The unity between officers and men and that between party members and LSWYK members is the unity in ideology between all People's Army commanders and soldiers and that between all party members and LSWYK members, and is the firm unity based on the revolutionary sense of duty and comradeship.

This unity is based on the noble sense of duty and the revolutionary awareness of the fact that, though their duties, military titles, and military service years are different, generals, commanders, officers, soldiers, party members, and LSWYK members are all revolutionary fellow soldiers and comrades who share their fates together on the road of upholding the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander. This is blood relations which can be built only in our People's Army which upholds the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as the supreme commander.

In our People's Army today, commanders throw themselves over to exploding bombs and mines to save their soldiers, and so do soldiers to save their commanders. Some of them have let their sisters and daughters marry their comrades who became disabled during their military service. Some are taking care of their deceased comrades' parents. This high-spirited self-sacrifice and warm comradeship displayed by our People's Army clearly shows how heavenly stage the spiritual and moral trait of our People's Army and its unity based on the revolutionary sense of duty and comradeship have reached.

The might of our People's Army's unity is being hardened due to ever strengthening blood relations between the Army and the people. Achieving blood relations with the people is the revolutionary army's duty and the source of its might. The revolutionary army's unique characteristic and its essential superiority lie in that it comes from the people, is actively supported by the people, and shares its fate and fortunes with the people.

The traditional virtue of unity between the Army and the people, which was created in the days of the anti-Japanese struggle and has been greatly displayed under the great leader's leadership, is being enhanced to an unprecedentedly high level.

Our People's Army soldiers run into water and fire without hesitation to save the people's lives and properties and help the people in doing the most difficult and hard jobs at every site of great socialist construction even during their special leave of commendation, thus creating heroic miracles and feats. This is the revolutionary trait of our People's Army.

This is why our people are wholeheartedly supporting the People's Army, with great pride in calling People's Army soldiers the comrade supreme commander's fighters, and in this course, blood relations between the Army and the people is being hardened as separable ones.

Today our People's Army is displaying itself as a proud, honorable, revolutionary armed force with high-level political and ideological strength because it upholds Comrade Kim Chong-il, a great brilliant commander, as the supreme commander.

As it upholds the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il—who has strengthened and developed our People's Army into an invincible, powerful army, with his outstanding military wisdom, tactics of leading the Army, peerless courage, and iron will—as the supreme commander, our revolutionary Armed Forces have a new, brilliant prosperous future. And it has become an army of matchless ranks.

Aligned imperialist forces are running wild to conduct a military venture in addition to their mean maneuvers to crush our people's socialist cause. This is, however, a foolish act.

Our strength based on the single-hearted unity of the entire Army and all the people around the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander is more powerful than any nuclear weapon.

Our revolutionary Armed Forces will mercilessly smash any of the enemy's aggression and provocation maneuvers by using its political, ideological, military, and technological strength, and will firmly defend with Arms our party's cause, the chuche socialist cause.

KCNA Reviews 27 Apr Pyongyang Press

SK2704053693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 27 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a photo-accompanied report that President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea called on His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, at the guest house prior to his departure after visiting Korea.

Printed in papers are messages of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song to President Gnassingbe Eyadema on the 33rd anniversary of the independence of Togo and to Valentine Strasser, head of state and chairman of the National Provisional Ruling Council of Sierra Leone, on the 32nd anniversary of the independence of Sierra Leone.

NODONG SINMUN carries messages of greetings to the Great Leader President Kim Il-song from foreign party leaders on his 81st birthday, a report that los andes university of Peru presented a gift to President Kim Il-song and celebrations were held in different countries on the occasion of April 15.

Seen in papers are messages of greetings to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, from General Secretary Nina Andreyeva and Secretary Aleksandr Rapin of the C.C. [Central Committee], the All-Union Bolshevik Communist Party and from Chairman Boris Petkov of the Executive Council of the C.C., the Bulgarian Communist Party (Marxists) on his election as chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK.

NODONG SINMUN reports that Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to various units.

Comrade Kim Chong-il's immortal classical works were reported by foreign media, says the paper.

The paper gives an account of an Indian national seminar on the chuche idea and the independence of the present world.

The paper introduces revolutionary slogans written on trees during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, which carry the minds of the Korean people highly lauding Comrade Kim Il-song as the great brilliant commander peerless in the history of thousands of years.

MINJU CHOSON editorially calls for a continuous, vigorous march forward to decorate brilliantly the 40th anniversary of the victory in the fatherland liberation war.

NODONG SINMUN reports that cold-beds of rice seedlings are tended well on cooperative farms.

Papers give accounts of the sojourn of the Thai parliamentary delegation led by its president in Korea.

Appearing in NODONG SINMUN is a joint statement issued by the Workers' Party of Korea and the Romanian party for new society.

The paper carries Information No. 625 published by the secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful reunification of the Fatherland denouncing the South Korean authorities for annually bearing a larger share of the burden for the upkeep of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces in South Korea.

South Korean news columns of the paper include a report that South Korean students vigorously wage the anti-U.S. struggle to drive out the U.S. imperialist aggression forces and an article on the worst plight of the South Korean workers.

Under the bannerline title "Guiding Compass Indicating Short Cut to Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Country" the paper conveys words of domestic and foreign public circles supporting the 10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation.

Statements and articles were published in foreign countries supporting the DPRK Government's statement on its withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, says the press.

Papers dedicate articles to the independence days of Togo and Sierra Leone.

NODONG SINMUN reports that the Mozambican president mentioned the implementation of the peace agreement and an anti-U.S. demonstration was held in Libya.

The paper runs an article titled "Capitalist Society, Society of Domination, Subjugation and Inequality."

South Korea

Analysts: Kim Il-song Health 'Rapidly Deteriorating'

SK2704083393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0823 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 27 (YONHAP)—Analysts in South Korea believe North Korean President Kim Il-song's health is rapidly deteriorating.

Kim seemed to be in extremely poor health judging from his appearance on television and based on other information, a highly placed South Korean Government source said on Monday [26 April], speaking on condition of anonymity.

He quoted an unidentified foreigner who met with Kim recently as saying the president was sleeping three to four hours a day as a result of insomnia and that he thought it was caused by old age.

At the National Unification Board, an official confirmed this analysis and noted that Kim's speeches at official events have been cut recently to one-third the length of past speeches.

"In particular, Kim has recently suffered from severe trembling in the hands and legs," he said.

On April 15, while receiving Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia, who was in Pyongyang to congratulate him on his 81st birthday, North Korean television footage showed Kim having difficulty moving his right leg.

Commentator Views Possible DPRK Threat to South

932C0110A Seoul SISA JOURNAL in Korean 25 Mar 93 pp 16-17

[By Japanese foreign affairs commentator Hideaki Kase]

[Text] *Hideaki Kase, contributor of this article, is a well-known Japanese foreign affairs critic. He served as a foreign affairs advisor to successive Japanese prime ministers and is the author of over 30 books including Rancorous ROK, Remorseful Japan. He is a "pro-Korean" intellectual and the chairman of the board of the Japan Security Council.*

Immediately after North Korean decided to withdraw from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT], a meeting was held at a hotel in Tokyo to discuss the domestic and international situations. I was present at this meeting with leaders of powerful LDP [Liberal Democratic Party] factions. During the meeting one of the highest DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] leaders said he had obtained the information that Kim Il-song and his son are preparing to take asylum in China.

As things stand now, it will take quite some time for the UN Security Council to decide on economic sanctions against North Korea because China, which has the veto right, is withholding its stand on the matter. If China should take a stance in favor of North Korea, obviously it would offend the Clinton Administration, which is making an issue of China's human rights violations, resulting in the deterioration of not only Sino-U.S. relations but also China's relations with other advance countries. Therefore, China stands at the cross-roads of choosing between North Korea and the Western world. Most probably, China would like to avoid any situation that will bring about North Korea's precipitous fall because the collapse of North Korea, one of the only few remaining socialist states, would not only have the negative effect of accelerating China's own isolation but also allowing South Korea, a democracy, to advance to the other side of the Yalu River, thereby adversely affecting China's socialist system itself.

Also from the standpoint of the Japanese Government, it is not easy to come up with a countermeasure because it is not desirable for Japan to put pressure on North Korea and thus inject instability into the situation on the Korean Peninsula. Depending on the development of the North Korean issue, it is possible that the "balance of power"—that has been maintained in the Asian region since the normalization of Sino-Japanese and Sino-U.S. relations—will crumble. Needless to say, the North Korean issue will be an important subject of discussion during the Japan-U.S. summit that will be held when Prime Minister Miyazawa visits Washington in April, as well as during the G-7 summit in June.

From the standpoint that preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is essential to the preservation of peace in the post-cold war era, the Bush administration held the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons as the centerpiece of its foreign policy, and the present Clinton Administration is adhering to the same policy. This is to say that preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons is at the center of the U.S. world strategy for the post-cold war era.

The DLP leader referred to earlier pointed out that Secretary Kim Chong-il is rather well acquainted with the world situation because he watches CNN and other foreign television newscasts. Thus he stressed that Kim Chong-il would not embark on some adventure. Nevertheless the Kim Il-song regime has undertaken an adventure by withdrawing from the NPT in order to avoid inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. If North Korea does not rescind its decision to withdrawal from the NPT, it will be considered as having ventured upon a most risky poker game.

Shortly after the North Korean announcement of its decision to withdraw from the NPT, an LDP leader pointed out to me: "We have learned a lesson from the Gulf war. The lesson is: there is no knowing what a regime as crazy as the Husayn government is up to."

The dynastic regime in North Korea is at the end of its rope. For the ROK and Japan, the crumbling of the Kim regime portends the danger that "may lead to unpredictable consequences." For one thing, the Kim father-and-son regime is a self-deified, abnormal system. History shows that when an abnormal system crumbles, it is likely to give rise to an "abnormal situation."

If the Kim rule collapses, the collapse would take the Romanian style. The Ceausescu dictatorship was brought down in 1989 by the insurgent troops. Ceausescu was executed upon arrest almost in a lynch style. When I visited Beijing three years ago at the invitation of the Beijing International Strategy Council, a think tank of the People's Liberation Army, one of the officials said to me, "In our view there is a great chance that the Kim Il-song regime will crumble as the Romanian regime did."

Japan undertook negotiations with North Korea for normalization of relations in January 1991. Japan had the policy of normalizing its relations with North Korea and making reparation for the damage done under the Japanese rule and helping the Kim regime with economic assistance, if the regime removed the suspicion about its nuclear capability. But the Japan-North Korea normalization negotiations hit a snag last year over the suspicion that North Korea was developing nuclear weapons.

Under this condition, it is highly questionable that the Korean Peninsula will be able to maintain stability throughout the nineties. In my view, there is the possibility of a rebellion in North Korea before it collapses. The rebellion may take the form of a coup d'etat, but it would not succeed. In the opinion of South Korean experts on North Korea, it would be difficult to stage a rebellion that would result in the overthrow of the regime. Nevertheless the Kim regime is much alienated from the hearts of the people throughout North Korea. As we recall, a revolutionary situation suddenly cropped up in Romania.

In the event the state of civil war in North Korea should persist, South Korea would be faced with a difficult situation. Should the state of civil war in North Korea remain unsolved even after five or six days, with the insurgent army beginning to flutter the ROK national flag, South Korea would have to make a difficult choice. Let us assume that the North Korean regime falls amid such confusion. Kim Il-song and his son would almost certainly take asylum in China, and the North Korean regime would disintegrate in the air. In that event, South Korea would have no other choice but to take over North Korea by merger.

The Kim regime of the North Korea has incurred the grudges of all or many of the North Korean people. Since the installation of the Kim regime under the guardianship of the Soviet Union, the regime has executed at least 500,000 people on the charges of being counterrevolutionaries. Even now it keeps numerous people in concentration camps on charges of antiestablishment elements, persecuting them in every way imaginable.

For this reason, if the Kim regime should be brought down by an internal revolution, the Kim clan would be executed. There is no foretelling whether this actually will happen. But when Kim Il-song and his son should see a great danger of their regime collapsing in the midst of an internal revolution, they might choose to attack South Korea rather than sit still and suffer self-destruction.

Despite the perennial economic doldrums for these past four or five years, the Kim regime has continued to build up its armament. If North Korea should attack South Korea, it would take place within the next two years. If it misses out this period, the Kim regime will be forever unable to attack the South because of the widening gap between the military capabilities of North and South Korea.

The North Korean military is a two-edged sword; either it will be obedient to the regime or it will resist the regime. According to circumstances, a coup d'etat may be staged in North Korea, bringing down the Kim regime. As Honecker took asylum in Moscow following the fall of the East German communist regime, Kim Il-song and his son may would take refuge in China. Let us assume that a military council or something like that will be established after the coup. The new North Korean government would propose an unconditional reunification to South Korea. But to the ROK, this scenario would be nothing but a nightmare.

The German reunification three years ago was accomplished in the form of West Germany's absorption of East Germany by merger. Before reunification, West Germany was the richest country in Europe. But as a price for absorbing 16 million East Germans by merger, West Germany had to face a great economic difficulty. It is doubtful whether the unified Germany will be able to achieve even a 1-percent growth this year.

The ROK economy as it stands now is not capable of absorbing the poor North Korean population which numbers nearly 22 million. The per-capita income gap between North and South is estimated at the ratio of 6 to 1 or 7 to 1. But in reality, the ratio should be much higher because the North Korea economy has recently been in deep depression. Accordingly, it is obvious that in the event of reunification, the South Korean economy will face a major crisis.

For this reason, when and if a new government is installed in North Korea, the ROK will seek gradual step-by-step economic integration by maintaining a commonwealth with the separate North Korean government over a period of 15 to 20 years, in which period North Korea will have introduced democracy and a market economy. However, this scenario is an unrealistic one which would seldom happen.

For one thing, in the event North Korea is liberated and liberalized, the North Korean populace would come to entertain a strong longing for the economically advanced South Korea, and refugees would pour into the South. In that event, it would become necessary to maintain the military demarcation line between North and South and raise something like the accursed Berlin wall in order to stem the influx of refugees from the North. When that should happen, South Korea would have to choose between the two options, whether to block the stream of North Korean refugees coming down or take them in and lower its own standard of living.

In case of an immediate reunification of Korea, EC members would be reluctant to offer financial assistance to a unified Korea because Korea is located geopolitically too far from Europe and they have not much interest in Korea. On the other hand, there is little financial room for the United States provide any economic assistance. This would impose a great financial burden on Japan. For this reason, the Japanese Government and the Self-Defense Forces are greatly apprehensive of the situation in North Korea and watching it closely. This is because should war break out on the Korean peninsula again, Japan would come to play the leading role in assisting the ROK. The United States is no longer capable of assisting South Korea with all its might as it did during the Korean War.

In that event, Russia under the Yeltsin Administration may fight side by side with the United States. Currently, the Japanese Defense Agency regards North Korea's Nodong-1 missile as the greatest threat. North Korea has continually exported North Korea-made missiles to Third World countries. Of these missiles, the Nodong-1 missile has a range of over 1,000 km; and presumably, it is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead weighing about 1 ton.

If North Korea should fire Nodong-1 missiles at Japan, not only the Kyushu area but also the Japanese mainland would come within its range up to the vicinity of Nagoya. Despite its very poor accuracy, the Nodong-1 missile cannot but be a threat to Japan. On top of that, in the event North Korea succeeds in developing nuclear warheads, it would pose really a major threat. But Japan is the only country that domestically produces Patriot missiles outside the United States.

In case a cataclysmic event occurs on the Korean peninsula, there will be no other countries than the United States and Japan that the ROK can count on.

German Agency Notes DPRK Chemical Weapons Potential

SK2704013093 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 27 Apr 93 p 7

[By YONHAP's Berlin correspondent]

[Text] The latest issue of the German weekly magazine FOCUS reports that the German Federal External Intelligence Bureau [BND] revealed that North Korea is capable of conducting chemical warfare.

FOCUS noted that each Western country considered North Korea's potential for chemical warfare to be a threat equal to the nuclear threat it has been posing since its withdrawal from the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

FOCUS estimates that North Korea possesses some 300 tons of military poisonous gas such as s-lost [as published], Sarin, and tarbun [as published]. FOCUS also reports that North Korea has established six chemical weapon bases in the area between Pyongyang and the armistice line.

Industry To Invite DPRK Officials To Attend Seoul Fair

SK2604043893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0137 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 26 (YONHAP)—North Korean officials will be invited to next month's Overseas Travel Fair (OTF) in Seoul, industry sources said Monday [26 April].

The OTF Organizing Committee will send a team to Japan and China this month to deliver an invitation for North Korean tourism officials to attend the fair at the Korea Exhibition Center (KOEX) on June 10-13.

It had not been decided how many North Koreans to invite, he said, but the number was tentatively eight to 10 including Pak Kyong-yun, chairman of Kumgangsan International Tourism Co., Kim Yo-ung, president of Korea Civil Aviation Co., and Cho Song-hun, president of Korea International Tourist Bureau.

There are to be three North Korean booths and the committee is making preparations for lodging and transportation. The committee won government approval for contact with North Koreans on April 24.

When North Korean tourism officials are to attend OTF, joint projects on tourism industry between Seoul and Pyongyang are to be discussed, tourism sources said.

North Korean tourism officials have already indicated at international travel fairs in third countries that they are willing to attend, he said.

North Korea is to attend the general session of the East Asia Travel Association (EATA) on June 14-17 in Cheju as an observer and is likely to attend the Taejon Expo, which opens Aug. 7, he said.

Around 50 countries are expected to attend the June travel fair and 30 of them have applied for 360 booths.

ITC Commissioner: U.S. Administration To Be 'Tougher'

SK2704054593 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 27 Apr 93 p 8

[By staff reporter Kang Sok-chae]

[Text] The new U.S. administration, which is more result-oriented, would be much tougher with Korea on economic issues, a commissioner of the U.S. International Trade Commission [ITC] said yesterday.

"We have strong differences with Korea over some market practices that have created barriers to U.S. imports, barriers to direct foreign investment in your country," said Carol T. Crawford, a commissioner of the six-member ITC, in a news conference.

She said that among the areas that need to be seriously addressed are the U.S. intellectual property rights protection, the Korean government procurement issue and the access of U.S. banking and insurance services to Korean markets.

Crawford, who arrived here Saturday for an eight-day visit, said there are both legal and regulatory barriers in Korea as well as discriminatory treatment and a lack of transparency.

She added that the Clinton administration would be more willing to impose retaliatory measures to demand results as well as working through process differences.

Referring to the recent summit meeting between the United States and Japan, the commissioner said "there is not even a possibility of a trade war, it is like one area of disagreement among close friends."

The ITC, an independent government agency, last Thursday [22 April] voted in favor of the U.S. industry against Korean semiconductor exporters.

The United States slapped duties up to 11.45 percent on computer chips imported from Korea.

Asked about the final ruling and vote, she said it was a fair vote according to their laws and had nothing to do with politics.

"The decisions are not made by politics or political parties but they are made by each individual commissioner based upon their analysis," she said.

On the big difference in margins between the preliminary determinations and the final ones, Crawford said that the Commerce Department publishes its preliminary determinations based upon the petitions from the domestic industry because of the short investigation period.

"In almost every case, it will be much less than the initial one because in the preliminary margin, there was no investigation but were simply based on what our domestic industry had alleged. So there is no real relationship between these two numbers," she said.

In the case of Samsung Semiconductor Inc., for example, the initial determination of 87.4 percent, went down to 0.82 percent.

Chinese Delegation Arrives To Study Trading System

SK2304092293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0559 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 23 (YONHAP)—A delegation from the China National Chemicals Import and Export Corp. (Sinochem), the country's largest trading firm, arrived

Thursday [22 April] to study South Korea's general trading company system of boosting exports.

The nine-member delegation will tour Sunkyong Ltd., Daewoo Corp. and Hyundai Corp. in addition to studying the functions, purposes and operations of the export system in South Korea.

Sinochem handles 8.7 billion U.S. dollars of exports and imports every year, but only does external trading. The Chinese Government believes general trading companies in Korea and Japan, which are engaged in many lines of business, play a decisive role in boosting exports, and so it wants to adopt their system, industry sources said.

China says it picked the Korean model as more suitable than Japan's because the Chinese economy lags too much behind that of Japan. The delegates return to China on April 29.

PRC Considering Equal Foreign, Domestic Investor Status

SK2704094393 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 27 Apr 93 p 6

[Report by Beijing-based correspondent Kim Chung-kun]

[Text] The Chinese Government is considering giving the same legal status to foreign enterprises in China as it does to Chinese enterprises so that foreign-invested companies may compete with Chinese companies on an equal basis in terms of investment and management. This status is to be called "national treatment."

According to a RENMIN RIBAO report dated 26 April citing the source as the Ministry of External Trade, Economy, and Joint Ventures [as published], the Chinese Government has decided to take a series of measures to provide foreign-invested enterprises with reciprocal benefits, including national treatment, this year to induce foreign enterprises to continue to invest in China. Based on this decision, the relevant government organizations are discussing specifics of these measures.

The measures under discussion include such areas as providing the foreign-invested enterprises of new technology industries suitable for the Chinese industrial policy with a certain market in China, and allowing the foreign-invested enterprises of commercial, financial, travel, real estate, maritime and transportation, and resources development businesses to do business in China as soon as they complete accumulating experiences during the investment trial period.

Since last year China has allowed foreign enterprises to operate port, harbor, and dock facilities and manage gas stations and restaurants on highways, in which commercial investment was banned previously. This contributed significantly to inducing foreign investment, bringing about good reactions at home and abroad.

Seoul To Drop Antidumping Charges Against Du Pont

SK2704072893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0144 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 27 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government is to scrap anti-dumping customs on DuPont Co. as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) has said that they are inappropriate, Finance Ministry officials said Tuesday.

A GATT panel had ruled that Korea's imposition of anti-dumping duties on the U.S. chemical company two years ago was unjust and the 25-nation committee on anti-dumping practices was likely to uphold the finding, the officials said, citing a report from Kim Tong-hwan, director for customs cooperation and chief Seoul delegate to the World Trade Negotiating and Control Forum in Geneva.

The duties were Seoul's first action against unfair trade by a foreign company to safeguard its home industry.

As a result of the GATT ruling, the Finance, Foreign, and Trade, Industry and Resources Ministries will discuss ending the anti-dumping duties on DuPont. They are scheduled to run until September.

The Trade Ministry, the leader in the matter, is reluctant but the Foreign and Finance Ministries insist on dropping the duties as soon as GATT comes to an official agreement.

If Korea ignored the GATT decision, which lacks binding force, it would face trade discomfort with the United States and international criticism, a Finance Ministry official said.

With the GATT ruling, Washington is said to be getting ready to demand early customs rescission and return of punitive payments.

The government would examine further the problem of returning earlier anti-dumping duties before making a decision, the officials said.

The Finance Ministry required a 4-percent tariff, the margin between standard and import prices, for two years from September 30, 1991, after the Korea Trade Commission (KTC) ruled that DuPont's polyester resins, used for manufacturing electronics and autombiles, were sold at unfair prices on the Korean market.

The GATT ruling has smeared Korea's industry protection system from its first step, officials said, adding fears of other foreign companies requesting GATT examination of dumping findings by KTC.

The negative ruling is said to have been caused by a lack of clear and objective proof of damage to Korean industry and by a misinterpretation of GATT provisions.

Seoul To Contribute to EBRD's Technical Fund

SK2704054893 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 27 Apr 93 p 8

[Text] Korea has decided to contribute $300,000 to the Technical Cooperation Fund of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD].

The fund will be used to help finance the employment of experts to study and evaluate the feasibility of EBRD loan projects, the Ministry of Finance officials said yesterday.

With the contribution, Korean consultants will be able to participate in EBRD projects, collecting related information at an early stage and sending Korean companies to international biddings for supply of materials.

Seoul also hopes that it would transfer development know-how to Eastern European countries through the contribution, officials said.

The EBRD was established two years ago to aid economic reform projects in Eastern European countries. Korea has contributed $76 million to the bank holding the 27th largest constituency.

Yim Chang-yol, assistant minister of finance for international cooperation, currently representing Korea at a two-day meeting, signed the contribution accord with EBRD President Jacques Attali in London, Sunday [25 April].

Tourism Promotion Office in Moscow To Close

SK2204011693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0049 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 22 (YONHAP)—The Korea National Tourism Corp. (KNTC) is to close its branch offices in Budapest and Moscow and open offices in Rome, Beijing and Houston, Texas, a spokesman said Thursday [22 April].

The two branches are to be closed on June 30 because fewer tourists visit Seoul from the countries than expected, he said.

The Budapest office was opened on September 1990 and the Moscow office in June 1991.

It cost the kntc between 400 million won and 500 million won (500,000-625,000 U.S. dollars) a year to keep the two offices.

When offices in Houston, Rome and Beijing open this year, KNTC will have 19 overseas offices.

The spokesman also said that 26,091 Russian tourists visited Korea in 1990, the year in which Seoul and Moscow normalized relations, 60,428 in 1991 and 84,343 in 1992.

Defense Ministry To Undertake Corruption Investigation

SK2604011493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0025 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 26 (YONHAP)—The Defense Ministry has decided to undertake a broad investigation into corruption in its ranks and irregularities allegedly done in collusion with the defense industry and the political circle.

The decision was made Sunday [25 April] at a meeting presided over by Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae and attended by high-ranking commanders including the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Yi Pil-sop.

The meeting also decided to form a committee for investigation of irregularities headed by Vice Defense Minister Yi Su-hyu. The committee's members will include deputy chiefs of staff of the three branches of the armed forces and heads of departments in the ministry.

Kwon told the meeting that the military had to accept the current trials humbly, and work actively to transform itself into a "born-again armed forces."

He pledged that he would investigate not only money-for-promotion scandals but all irregularities thoroughly and completely, and punish those found guilty regardless of their rank.

Kwon was scheduled to lead the chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force to the presidential office of Chongwadae on Monday morning and report their anti-corruption measures to President Kim Yong-sam.

The ministry action, some analysts said, was intended to prevent unrest and concern among officers and men that could result from the ever-widening money-for-promotion scandal, followed by large-scale irregularities involving defense industry contracts.

Specifically, the ministry plans to revise the law governing the promotion of military officers. It hopes to disperse the power of personnel management that has been concentrated in the hands of chiefs of staff. The ministry wants to introduce the new system for promotions in 1994, sources said.

The ministry is expected to mete out severe punishment to those involved in the Navy promotion scandal, in which a chain of bribe-taking is being disclosed by the prosecution.

In addition, the ministry hopes to probe allegations by former Air Force Chief of Staff Chong Yong-hu that he received requests for the promotion of certain officers from Chongwadae and the political circle while in office.

Claiming he was innocent, Chong also alleged that there had been political payoffs involving the previous administration's decision to change the type of the Air Force's mainstay fighter plane.

Speaking at a press conference on Saturday, Chong explained why he had to retire as Air Force chief of staff and said there had been "unjustifiable pressure" from Chongwadae during the process of switching the type of fighter from McDonnell Douglas' F-18s to General Dynamics' F-16s.

Audit Board Begins Probe on 'Yulgok' Military Project

SK2704070693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0015 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 27 (YONHAP)—The Board of Audit and Inspection launched a large-scale investigation into the government's military buildup program, called the "Yulgok project," on Tuesday [27 April].

The board assigned 43 auditors to probe various aspects of the project over a period of one month, officials said.

The targets of the investigation include the purchase processes of the country's next-generation mainstay fighter, submarines, tanks and other military hardware.

The officials said they will investigate the Defense Ministry, the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Defense Procurement Agency and the Army, Navy and Air Force headquarters to find out how weapons were selected, and whether efforts have been made to domestically produce those weapons by acquiring technology.

In view of recent allegations of payoffs and other suspicions, the board will especially concentrate in finding out the purchase prices of weapons, their effectiveness, conditions for purchase contracts, production costs and status of maintenance, the officials said.

The board will also probe the military structure and system to see whether they contributed to possible corruption and on ways to prevent irregularities, the officials said.

The board had planned to audit the "Yulgok project" in the second half of this year, but decided to carry it out earlier than scheduled as various allegations in connection with the project have surfaced in recent days, they said.

The board had in fact probed the "Yulgok project" every year, but it concentrated in its accounting. It was the first time that the board assigned more than 40 officials to look into the project.

In addition, the board assigned 13 officials to check the Foreign and Labor Ministries.

Aircraft Selection 'Provoked Suspicion'

SK2704071693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0112 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 27 (YONHAP)—The change of the next-generation fighter from the McDonnell Douglas F-18 to the General Dynamics F-16 in March 1991 provoked suspicion at the time, a source said Monday [26 April].

McDonnell Douglas had accepted the change with "regrets," said the source, who had links to the U.S. aerospace firm.

The U.S. Government and General Dynamics promised the Korean Government that they would modify the F-16 to make it as good as the F-18, but the promise was impossible to keep because of the F-16's structure and design, he said.

The change aroused suspicion because it was well known that the F-16 lacked some of the F-18's special functions and all pilots wanted the F-18, but the matter was soon hushed up.

"I could hardly understand the selection of the inferior F-16 as the next-generation fighter just because of its lower price when a weapons system must be the best available," the source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

McDonnell Douglas, considering future arms deals with Korea, expressed regret at the change and removed its salesmen from Seoul, he said, adding that he no longer has ties to the company.

"I doubt whether they would have made the change if they had had an Air Force pilot as a son," he said.

Seoul Fears Impression of 'Vendetta'

SK2704081993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0212 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 27 (YONHAP)—As the government began probing the nation's military buildup as part of its anti-corruption drive, President Kim Yong-sam's office was reported to be concerned that it may work in North Korea's advantage.

Chongwadae is also worried that an extensive investigation into the military buildup, called the "Yulgok project," could be viewed as a political vendetta against former President No Tae-u and his administration.

When Kim launched his anti-corruption and reform campaign, the underlying principle was that there would not be any untouchable area and everyone found guilty would be punished regardless of their position or contributions to the country.

Kim instructed military leaders to unearth irregularities in the military Monday [26 April] and try to prevent their recurrence. His anti-corruption drive would continue in all segments of the country as long as he was in office, Kim said.

Kim's instruction came while he was receiving reports at Chongwadae from Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Yi Pil-sop and the chiefs of the three branches of the armed forces.

Kim's reiteration of his determination to carry out reform was noteworthy, observers say, because it came as various allegations were being leveled of possible payoffs and other irregularities in the purchase of foreign fighters, submarines and other military hardware under the "Yulgok project."

Notwithstanding Kim's unswerving will for reform, Chongwadae nevertheless was mindful of the possibility that an intense investigation of the project and its publicity could demoralize officers and men.

There is also a possibility, some Chongwadae officials believe, that if the investigation is unable to prove any irregularities it may help North Korea and could be interpreted as an investigation aimed at discrediting the previous administration.

Despite the cautious approach by Chongwadae, the government's handling of the money-for-promotions scandal involving a former chief of the Air Force staff has been resolute.

As soon as the president received a report on the scandal last week, he ordered a thorough and uncompromising investigation.

Following his instruction, Pak Kwan-yong, chief presidential secretary, called a meeting of senior presidential secretaries and reaffirmed the government's policy of carrying out a complete investigation into military corruption and punishing those responsible for any wrongdoing.

Reporters, noting there have already been investigations of promotion scandals involving only Air Force and the Navy, asked presidential spokesman Yi Kyong-chae whether the government intended to look into the Army for similar irregularities.

Yi made it clear that the Army could not be an exception by saying, "the government's basic policy to conduct a thorough investigation wherever irregularities are committed."

'Isolated' Army Promotion Lapses Found

SK2704122293 Seoul YONHAP in English 1154 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 27 (YONHAP)—Law-enforcement authorities have looked into possible promotion-related irregularities involving ranking Army officers as in other service branches, but no clues of any promotion scandals were found so far in the Army, a senior government official said on Tuesday [27 April].

The official said some personnel irregularities were detected in the Army, but they involved only company- and field-grade officers in isolated instances.

"Therefore, there will be no further investigation into possible promotion-irregularities in the Army. But, we will carry on the special probe by the Board of Audit and Inspection [BAI] into possible scandals over the Yulgok arms buildup program," he said.

Saying that President Kim Yong-sam's determination is firm about digging out possible irregularities linked to munitions industries, the official said the BAI inspection of the Defense Ministry and other key military organizations will be made thoroughly without allowing any havens.

The BAI inspection will not be limited to the area of the introduction of several major weapons systems only but will cover the whole sector of weapons production and other defense industries, a source said.

Replacement of Military Officials 'Tremendous Shock'

932C0104A Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 9 Mar 93 p 2

[By reporter Kim Hyo-chae]

[Text] The surprising replacement of General Kim Chin-yong, Army chief of staff, and So Wan-su, commander of the ROK Army Intelligence Command, is expected to give the military a tremendous shock and make its repercussions felt in the military. Above all, it heralds a sweeping operation on the "Hanahoe" connection which has enjoyed a virtual monopoly of all key military posts since the emergence of a new military leadership group in 1980.

This further presages a wholesale shift in the Army leadership alignment and in the "backbone" of the Army core personnel. When Deputy Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae, a non-Hanahoe member, was promoted to the post of defense minister, some already augured the replacement of Chief of Staff Kim and Intelligence Commander So. However, considering that both Kim Chin-yong and So Wan-su were "secured" of a two-year term by the past practices, and that there was no urgent need to reshuffle the key posts in the military, they were expected to be replaced at the time of a routine personnel shift in June.

For this reason, an interested military source said that the impact the 8 March personnel action will have on the military may be comparable to the force of a nuclear bomb and a "great massacre."

A Defense Ministry official urged that the latest military reshuffle not be taken as a struggle between the Hanahoe and non-Hanahoe forces. However, the replaced leaders are both Hanahoe members and their successors, namely, new Chief of Staff Kim Tong-chin and new Intelligence Commander Kim To-yun, are both non-Hanahoe members. This fact makes it unavoidable to interpret the latest reshuffle in the context of Hanahoe vs. non-Hanahoe rivalry.

Inasmuch as the "removal" of personnel with the Hanahoe background—the Hanahoe has controlled the military since the Third Republic—stems from President Kim Yong-sam's strong determination, the first revolutionary revamping in about 30 years is expected to take place in the organization and order of the military.

A high-ranking Defense Ministry official said, "Follow-up personnel actions will be limited to filling the vacancies, but we will closely watch the changing mood of the military," thus strongly indicating that if there is an adverse reaction to the latest reshuffle, additional measures will be taken.

Another message the latest reshuffle gives is that the reshuffle marks the first step toward consolidating the leadership of new Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae over the military. During his meetings with the president and Chongwadae secretaries on official and private occasions, Defense Minister Kwon was quoted as repeatedly stressing: "In controlling the military, no element should be allowed to intervene between the president, who is the supreme commander, and the defense minister, a cabinet member." This means that the defense minister emphasized that there should be no room for the director of the Presidential Security Force, or the Army intelligence commander, or anyone else for that matter, to intervene between the present and the defense minister by ignoring the line of command in the military. Another point that cannot be overlooked in connection with the latest reshuffle is the fact that it has paved the way for Defense Minister Kwon to make up for his weakness, which is real, arising from his promotion to the first place from the 11th place in the protocol ranking in the military.

As his Military Academy graduating class is concerned (15th), Defense Minister Kwon ranked at the top in seniority when he was vice minister of defense. But the post of vice defense minister is equivalent to the rank of lieutenant general in the protocol ranking, after the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff; the chiefs of staff of the Army, Navy, and the Air Force; the deputy commander in chief of the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command [CFC]; the commanders of the 1st, 2d, and 3d Army, and the first deputy chairman of the joint chiefs of staff. For this reason, his authority over the military carried only a limited weight. However, now that Defense Minister Kwon did exercise his influence, in one form or another, in the appointment of the new Army chief of staff and the intelligence commander, he has come to possess an authority that no can ignore. The prospect for a downsized Army Intelligence Command portended by the latest reshuffle also needs to be watched with attention.

This is because breaking away from the past practice under the successive administrations of naming a most influential officer in the military as intelligence commander, this time the president named the chief of staff of the Intelligence Command (major), an intelligence expert who has handled security affairs since he was a captain, as new intelligence commander, rather than naming a so-called "lieutenant general with real power" commonly known as "the president's man" to that post. This is taken as an indication that the new administration is determined to have the Intelligence Command, which has been the subject of so much controversy, concentrate only on its original duties without stepping over its given authority, by first downgrading the rank of its commander. This determination was also clear in President Kim's statement that "from now on I shall receive no direct report from the commander of the Intelligence Command."

However, it must be noted that not all the Army personnel are hailing the latest personnel action. In addition, some observers suspect that President Kim may have sought to use the surprise replacement of the military leadership as a means of a "Kim Yong-sam style frontal attack" designed to defuse the crisis generated by the morality issue involving some cabinet members.

This atmosphere is reflected in the following statement of a Defense Ministry official: "The military cannot be exempted from reform. But coming as it does at a time when the ROK forces are yet to usher in a period of stability in the wake of the transfer of the command of the ROK forces [from the United States], care should be exercised in realigning the military leadership."

Presidential Secretariat 'Flouted Rules' Under No Tae-u

SK2404081193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0552 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 24 (YONHAP)—The presidential secretariat routinely flouted rules and regulations under President No Tae-u, a spokesman for the Board of Audit and Inspection said Saturday [24 April].

No's secretariat purchased 3.27 billion won (417,000 U.S. dollars) worth of goods in 1992 through 75 unpublicized contracts, he said, announcing the results of an Inspection of the Secretarial and Security Offices.

No's office bought 460 million won worth of cars and other items of equipment on its own, instead of getting it through the office of supply.

It listed 570.4 million won worth of paintings and other art as facility expenditures, which is also against the law, the spokesman said.

The security office bought four cars in 1991. It already had 91 official cars, although the law says it can have only 28.

Yi Man-sop Elected New National Assembly Speaker

SK2704101493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0939 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 27 (YONHAP)—Rep. Yi Man-sop of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party won support from

217 lawmakers out of the 269 present to get elected as a new assembly speaker on Tuesday [27 April].

The selection was made in a secret vote in which legislators gave the names of their choices.

Yi succeeds Pak Chun-kyu who had offered to resign in a controversy over the allegedly immoral manner of his fortune making.

Prior to Yi's selection, the assembly voted for the resignation offered by Pak Chun-kyu as speaker.

The ballot counting of the secret vote among the 268 lawmakers present was 191 for his resignation and 68 against with seven abstentions. Two votes were found to be invalid.

EPB, Finance Ministry Disagree Over Chaebol Policy

SK2704060393 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 27 Apr 93 p 9

[By staff reporter Yi Chang-sop]

[Text] The Economic Planning Board [EPB] and the Ministry of Finance [MOF] have been pitted against each other over a program to disperse shareholder ownership of major business groups.

The EPB has proposed a debt-to-equity plan under which banks will swap their loans with equities of major conglomerates.

The EPB said the proposal is the best way to ease economic concentration in the hands of a few family-controlled conglomerates. The idea will also help big industrial giants reduce their reliance on bank loans, it said.

But the MOF opposes the bid because it will further weaken competitiveness of Korean banks. If the proposal becomes reality, major groups will turn over equities of their most troubled subsidiaries to banks in return for reducing their borrowing, an MOF official said.

This will put additional burden on banks which have already been saddled with huge amount of troubled loans, the MOF official said.

The EPB's proposal also faces strong opposition from owners of big business groups who speculate that the government is seeking to disperse their share ownership or infringe upon their managerial rights.

Analysts say that the EPB is going to attempt to "convert banks into holding companies of Korea Inc." by following the Japanese model in controlling the conglomerates.

They said the EPB is now talking about converting loans into equity. If this happens, then banks will become the major shareholders of chaebol stock, they added.

But MOF officials said "to maintain soundness of banks, banks must be barred from buying excessive equities of their client firms."

In Japan, banks and big firms mutually own each other's shares. Banks dispatch executives to industrial firms, they said. But in Korea, conglomerates are barred from owning or controlling banks, they said.

Major groups currently hold more than 50 percent of their subsidiaries through a complicated cross-holdings system, thereby sometimes illegally exploiting company funds, according to a foreign brokerage house in Seoul.

The Federation of Korean Industries—the mouthpiece of major industrial giants—is worried that the Kim Yong-sam administration seeks to control chaebol and eventually disband them.

According to the EPB's chaebol policy, there will be no special subsidies for big firms. Cross holdings and cross payment guarantees will be strictly limited and they will not be allowed to break into just any line of business.

President Kim Yong-sam has gone so far as to hint that ownership and management may split. He added that a chaebol shareholding may be defined as a 5 percent share. The new administration also made it clear that hereditary transfer of power in big groups will be made hard.

In addition to loan to equity swap plan between banks and big groups, the EPB also said it will strengthen gift and inheritance taxes and encourage big firms to sell shares of unlisted subsidiaries and prevent them from issuing preferred stocks with no voting rights.

Industrial giants will be discouraged from expanding their business lines through heavy reliance on bank loans. The EPB proposes that industrial firms be barred from deducting interest payment as expenses without limit.

The EPB said it will make it obligatory for big firms to publish consolidated financial statements. It is moving to regulate industrial firms' arbitrary lending of money to their owners.

These proposals will become part of the nation's new Five-Year Economic Plan, to be implemented from July after inter-ministry consultations, government officials said.

Seoul To Emphasize 'Medium Technologies' Development

SK2404033593 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD SUPPLEMENT in English 24 Apr 93 pp 1, 2

[Text] The government will make a concerted effort to develop "medium technologies" for small and medium-sized enterprises, Science and Technology Minister Kim Si-chung says.

Medium technologies or "Med Tech" mean technologies which can be commercialized with a relatively short period of R&D activities, he says.

Production of core parts of personal computers, factory automation of industrial firms and machinery parts are placed under the category of "Med Tech."

To help Korean industries regain their international competitiveness, the ministry is determined to develop highly advanced technologies along with the civil sector.

In a bold step aimed at alleviating the financial burden of cash-strapped small firms, the ministry will grant about 1,400 technology patents and technical know-how to them free of royalty fees for three years. They are expected to make the most use of such technologies in boosting their international competitiveness.

The ministry will set aside about $500 million to assist the development projects of small enterprises.

Researchers of the state-funded research institutes will be able to provide industries with advice to help resolve their difficult technological problems, Minister Kim says.

A center will be set up at the Taeduk Science Town to promote the commercialization of high technologies.

Planning to help raise the level of science and technology to that of major advanced industrial countries by the year 2000, the government will spare no efforts to develop high-techs.

Minister Kim says sustained financial support will be available to develop such fields as High Definition Television (HDTV), electric automobiles and semiconductors. The government will invest about $505 million (421 billion won) for implementation of the G-7 Project by 2001. According to the timetable of hi-tech development program, HDTV and about 10 core components of hi-tech machines will be developed by 1994.

Production systems will be fully automatic by 1996 and development of two or three new materials which will help domestic pharmaceutical and agricultural pesticide manufacturers to foray into the international market by 1997.

The domestic development of 256 mega-DRAM semiconductor will become a reality by 1998, elevating the level of Korean semiconductor technology to that of the United States and Japan.

A comprehensive information and telecommunication network will be developed by 2001, enabling people to receive all domestic and foreign information with one computer.

Close cooperation of industries, academia and research institutes will be sought with the creation of the "best engineer award."

The ministry plans to propose legislation designed to forge closer cooperation between the government and industrial firms in R&D activities. About $72 million or 58.3 billion won will be used in financial support to basic science—related fields. Korea is expected to rank 15th in the level of the basic science in the near future.

The government will boost investment in R & D activities to make it account for 5 percent of the government budget by 1998.

The openings of Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) are to be increased to back up the fostering of highly qualified manpower.

The ministry will set up liaison offices in the United States and EC countries to improve its ability on collecting valuable information of scientific and technological trends.

A scientific rocket, domestically developed for the first time, will be launched in May and October to enhance the ability of observing the space. It will make a big stride in the development of space science.

A device will be installed in Pohang, along the southeast coast, to monitor the level of ozone-layer destruction and sustained efforts will be made to help develop high technologies in protecting the natural environment from degradation.

The government will give more autonomy to scientists from the state funded institutes. Unnecessary restrictions will be lifted for them to enable them to concentrate on research work and a variety of financial incentives will help a lot in carrying out research projects.

Research fund for basic science in universities (U.S.$ Mil.)

Fund Sources	1998	1990	1991
Ministry of Education	25.3	25.5	28.1
Ministry of Science & Technology	14.5	36.3	38.4
Ministry of Trade & Industry	7.0	13.0	15.0
Ministry of Defense	1.0	4.9	6.1
Ministry of Energy & Resources	0.3	2.0	1.9
Private foundations	1.7	2.4	3.8

Total	49.8	84.1	93.3

Source: The Korea Science and Engineering Foundation

Plan for increasing S & T investment (U.S.$ Mil.)

S&T investment	1990	1992	1994	1996
Total	5,259	7,669	1,343	16,650
• Private Sector	3,667	5,866	8,621	12,487
• Government	1,592	1,803	2,722	4,163
of the GNP	2.20	2.63	3.03	3.49

S&T budget to total government budget by country

Korea	France	Germany	Japan	U.K.	U.S.
(1991)	(1990)	(1990)	(1990)	(1989)	(1990)
2.24	6.6	3.9	2.9	3.0	5.1

Comparison of private sector R&D investment in major countries

	Korea	U.S.	Japan	Germany	U.K.	France
	(1990)	(1989)	(1988)	(1987)	(1987)	(1988)
R&D investment (US$ bil.)	3.6	92.4	55.6	22.4	13.9	13.1
•propor tion to total sales	1.88	N.A.	2.6	3.2	N.A.	3.5
(Manufacturing ind.)	(2.07)	(4.7)	(3.2)	(3.8)	N.A.	(5.4)
			('85)			('82)
Research ers (x1,000)	38.7	594.8	294	93.5	87	49.2
		('87)	('89)	('85)	('87)	('87)
•per 1,000 employ ees	21.8	45.6	45.6	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	('89)	('89)				

Seoul Considers NASA-Like Planning Corps for Aviation, Space

SK2704025093 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 25 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] In efforts to develop the ROK aviation and space industry, the government is considering establishing an "Aviation and Space Industry Planning Corps" [ASIPC], which may have a similar function to the U.S. National Aeronautical and Space Administration [NASA], and thus, efficiently administer an aviation and space industry policy which has been implemented by each ministry to date.

The government will form a planning team to formulate and execute plans for the aviation and space industries and place it under the direct orders of the president. It will collect funds for this.

Recently, it submitted a report to the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] Policymaking Committee concerning the formation of the planning corps.

In its report to the DLP, the government mentioned two plans. One is that the president forms a new "ASIPC" led by his senior secretary for economic affairs, and the other is that the government expand and reorganize the current infrastructure of its investment planning corps, which is headed by the senior secretary for economic affairs, to execute policy.

Aviation and space industry working level teams will be formed in the ASIPC and will: develop the domestic aviation industry by coming up with types of planes which should be developed and formulating schedules and plans to that end; push ahead with overseas cooperation projects to develop next-generation aircraft; readjusting aircraft routes; forge long-term plans to develop the domestic space industry; coordinate research and production programs to develop facilities that can be used in the space industry; participate in the international space development project; and carry out its operation to coordinate business among domestic enterprises.

The ASIPC will be composed of a head of a corps and 20 other officials, including a deputy head of a corps at the level of first-grade secretary for economic affairs. Five section chief-level officials from the Ministries of Trade, Industry and Resource, the Economic Planning Board, Defense, Transportation, and Science and Technology will participate in the aviation development project. Also, four other officials from the Ministries of Trade, Industry and Resource, the Economic Planning Board, Communications, and Science and Technology will participate in the space development project.

The current infrastructures investment planning corps is composed of 15 officials (excluding the head of a corps) and will be increased to 29 officials. New working-level teams will also be formed in the corps to handle aviation and space industry projects.

* Editorial Urges Reduced Defense Contribution

SK2704013993 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 23 Apr 93 p 3

[Editorial: "Reduce Spending on U.S. Forces in Korea"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of Defense Les Aspin testified before Congress that the ROK ranks first in the world in defense burden sharing of U.S. forces stationed abroad. This testimony proves that the ROK has been an easy victim to U.S. pressures related to burden sharing. Secretary Aspin revealed that based on 1993 figures, the ROK shares 78 percent of the cost of stationing U.S forces here. This figure is not only 2 percent higher than the 76 percent borne by Japan but also is three times more than the 25 percent borne by NATO.

This ratio is just a simple comparison of amount. Percentage calculation comparing defense burden againt the gross national product [GNP] of nations like Japan or NATO member countries such as Germany reveals an enormous gap in burden sharing between the ROK and Japan or the NATO member countries. Even Secretary Aspin assessed that ROK's burden shares are "quite satisfactory." However, the United States demands that the ROK sharply increase defense burden shares for 1994.

In short, this indicates that U.S. demand goes against the principles of balance and fairness. Why should the ROK pay more than Japan or the NATO member countries? This does not mean that we intend to underestimate the role of U.S. military presence in the ROK. The ROK's defensive power is inferior to that of North Korea. Under such circumstances, most ROK people feel that the presence of U.S. forces on this soil is necessary for ROK's security as their presence is effective in deterring war. Few people believe that the U.S. Armed Forces are stationed in the ROK only for our defense.

While the United States stations its armed forces in the ROK for its global strategic standpoint, we allow U.S. military presence in the ROK for our security. Similarly, this global strategic concept may apply to the role of the U.S. Armed Forces in Japan, the NATO, or other countries which grant U.S. military presence. Therefore, we cannot understand why the ROK should singularly bear a whoppingly larger burden than Japan or the NATO member countries when they spend an even smaller portion of their larger economic means for their national defense.

Government authorities admitted that the ROK has shouldered such a heavy burden because differences in computation methods between the ROK and the United States have not been ironed out. In other words, the United States excludes free lease of land from the burden-sharing cost and only recognizes spending such as on-the-spot expenses incurred in connection with the U.S. military presence, which is directly disbursed from its government budget. This means that although we have shared the heaviest burden for the U.S. military presence in the world, we have been pressured annually to raise our share of the burden simply because our standards didn't meet U.S. ones. This is a good example of our acquiescent [chochase] diplomacy toward the United States.

The U.S. secretary of defense officially recognized that the ROK ranks first in the world in its defense burden sharing and the United States should no longer demand an increased burden. We would like to urge our government to show its firm position by boldly rejecting such unreasonable demands of the United States and narrowing discrepancies in the basis for computing defense burden-sharing costs at an early date.

Burma

Groups Submit Chapter Proposals on Constitution

Part One

BK2204120093 Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 4 Apr 93 pp 7-10

[Text] The National Convention resumed in the Central Meeting Hall in the President's Residence on Ahlone Road here today [3 April]. The following is a translation of the extracts from proposal papers submitted by delegate groups on the allocation of chapter headings in order to lay down fundamental principles for writing a new State Constitution.

NLD [National League for Democracy]

Secretary of the National League for Democracy hluttaw [National Assembly] representative-elect, U Lwin, submitted a paper on the allocation of chapter headings suitable to be included in the constitution.

He first recounted the clarifications by the National Convention Convening Work Committee chairman to the Panel of Chairmen on 24 March 1993.

He then dealt with headings—the Head of State, Legislature, and the Executive. He said, they, in Myanmar [Burmese] terms, do not convey complete sense and misinterpretations may accrue. They may also affect the personality of Constitution.

He said the endeavors now being made for the construction of a new nation are based mainly on the National Convention objective No. 4—for a genuine multiparty democracy system to flourish—and objective No. 5—for the further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values such as justice, liberty and equality.

He then spoke of "Hluttaw", a term used in countries practicing democratic system. He said it is an organization elected by the public that wields sovereignty and that has to exercise, in accordance with the law, the three main branches of sovereignty—legislative, executive, and judiciary.

He said it is assumed that a hluttaw that has been elected by the public in accordance with democratic practices and that is in conformity with the 12-point pillar that he presented above should emerge. It can be looked forward that the president that the National Assembly has to elect in accordance with the constitution and the highest organ of the executive authority—the government that is also to be elected and formed would emerge.

He said if the term "legislature" is used instead of "hluttaw", it may convey the sense that it is an organization that is concerned only with legislation. It is also believed that the term is not compatible with what was included in the alternate chairman's address on 3 March 1993, "...so that they may convey complete sense and should be understood by the majority". The hluttaw is responsible for the establishment of a democratic state, the flourishing of a genuine multiparty democracy system, and the further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values such as justice, liberty, and equality.

Hence, it is believed that the term "hluttaw" should be used instead of "legislature", and moreover, the hluttaw, that has been used in the past, is suited to the term "constitution".

He then presented his party's discussions on the heading "the executive".

He said the government, that has to be formed by the hluttaw elected by the public in accordance with democratic practices, is to exercise the executive power of the state, in other words, it is the second highest authoritative organization next to the hluttaw.

Hence, he suggested a more accentuated and elegant term "the government" should be used. He said the NLD is of the opinion that the terms "legislature" and "the executive" convey the meaning of "function" and are not clear as to which organizations are responsible for them. He proposed that the terms which highlight responsible organizations should be used.

He spoke of the interrelationship of the three headings—the hluttaw, in which three sovereign powers are centered; the president, to be elected by the hluttaw; and the government.

Regarding the heading provisions on state of emergency, he said every country is prone to state of emergency under changing conditions and times. He said, citing the 1947 and the 1974 constitutions as instances, that it is commonly put under a heading in the constitution instead of designating it as a separate chapter.

Hence, he suggested that the heading should be put under a heading so that appropriate measures for tackling emergency situations could be provided in the constitution.

Regarding the heading "transitory provisions", he said the NLD has not used the words "not necessary" in its previous submissions of proposals on the heading, quoting an extract from the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chairman's address.

He stressed a detailed submission by the NLD on the heading at the 8 March group discussions and said the submission has comprehensively dealt with matters concerning the heading and the programs laid down by the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] in its Declaration No 1/90 and the clarifications at the 103rd press conference of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Information Committee.

He emphasized the importance of thoroughly establishing a new democratic state and said a new democratic state means a state ruled by a government elected by the public for public benefit.

He said duties lie on all for bringing about the causes such as perpetuation of the race which is cherished by all national races, autonomy and the preservation and promotion of their own cultural traditions and literature.

He presented the NLD's opinion, taking into consideration the nation and all citizens including various national races, that regards the success of the National Convention and writing a constitution as top priority.

He recalled the party's submission at group discussions on 8 March 1993, that dealt with constructive proposals on 22 chapter headings, the welfare of all national races, successfully holding the National Convention and the emergence of a new constitution, and assured of his party's cooperation regarding the matters.

In conclusion, he called on the delegates to contribute proposals and suggestions with correct attitude and genuine cetana [goodwill] in accordance with the objectives—'for a genuine multiparty democracy system to flourish' and 'for the further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values such as justice, liberty, and equality'.

Shan Nationalities League for Democracy

General Secretary of Shan Nationalities League for Democracy, U Sai Aik Paung, first of all, wished "the well-being and peace of mind of esteemed chairman and all delegates to the National Convention." He stated that the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy again discussed chapter headings suitable to be included in constitution in accordance with agenda of the National Convention.

The political party group held discussions on 8-3-93 which were focused on the suggested chapter headings and arrangement delivered by the alternate chairman at the plenary session of the National Convention held on 3-3-93. At that meeting, the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy submitted the union state as follows:

The Shan Nationalities League for Democracy suggested the union state as chapter heading to be included after basic principles.

The Shan Nationalities League for Democracy also submitted a paper at the plenary session on 24-2-93 which stated the union state as heading No 11. The chairman, in his address, took it into account and put it under group 3.

In connection with the state structure, the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy firmly believed that the structure should be a union state. Everybody knows that the day on which the historic Panglong Agreement was signed has been celebrated as Union Day, Pyidaungsu Ne. The Agreement was based on equal rights and to set up a union state. He believed that no one would suggest a system which is not a union state in other way a form of state which is anti-union system which is contrary to the historical trend. If the state is to be built with a union system then the next step is to discuss what form of union. He would present it when discussing in detail. At present he would deal with chapter headings.

If a union system would be used, the role of member states of the union is essential. The role of states should be included as a heading under basic principles. But he felt sorry that it did not include the fundamental rules compiled by the Panel of Chairmen.

He did not believe that the constitution would be completed without the chapter heading—the role of member states of the union. As for the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy, it emphatically discussed to submit the role of member states of the union as a chapter heading.

He stated that the heading and the words were the same when the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy submitted at the plenary session on 24-2-93 and at the discussions of political party group on 8-3-93.

Next, he presented the opinion of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy in dealing with chapter headings such a "head of state", "legislature", and "executive" on Page 25 in an address given by Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee.

He stated that the "head of state" should not be designated as a chapter heading. In 1974 Constitution, the term president was used. Everybody knows that the president is the highest position in the state.

The usage of 'head of state' is less emphatic than the usage of 'president', he explained. There is one position of president in one state. According to the newspapers published by the State Law and Order Restoration Council, he noted, 'head of state' means all members of the State Law and Order Restoration Council. He said the use of president is most suitable for the highest position in the state, one position in one state, and only one position and therefore 'president' should be designated as a chapter heading.

Next, he discussed the heading of Legislature. On page 25 of an address by work committee chairman, he had clarified that the chapter heading, having a wide scope of view, was used so as to avoid to permanently designate a chapter heading before discussions on respective chapter headings were held.

He went on to say that it submitted to use the chapter heading 'Pyidaungsu Hluttaw' [Union Assembly] instead of the heading 'legislature' and the word 'Pyidaungsu' [Union] was not formally designated.

It should be noted that the first objective of the National Convention is 'non-disintegration of the union'. Therefore, he undoubtedly submitted the chapter headings and used the terms 'Pyidaungsu Hluttaw' and 'Pyidaungsu Government'.

Next, he dealt with the provision on state of emergency. The heading was discussed by only one group. According to Article 94 of the 1947 Constitution, "the president can declare by proclamation that a grave emergency exists whereby the security of the union is threatened, whether by war or internal disturbance, or that a grave economic emergency affecting the union has arisen in any part of the union" which can be found in Part 4; Powers of Parliament, of Chapter 6; Parliament. In addition, Article 76 of Chapter 5, Council of State, of the 1974 Constitution said: "The Council of State may declare a state of emergency and promulgate martial law in specified areas or in the entire state, if an emergency affecting the defense and security of the state should arise. It may order mobilization in certain areas or in the entire state. Such measures shall be submitted for approval to the nearest session of the Pyithu Hluttaw [People's Assembly]." Therefore the heading 'state of emergency' should be discussed under the heading, 'pyidaungsu hluttaw—legislature' or under the heading of the 'president' or under the heading of the 'pyidaungsu government' not to be considered as a chapter heading.

National Unity Party

With the guidance of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chairman and the Panel of Chairmen, delegate of the National Unity Party U Tun Yi presented a paper containing three parts on designating the chapter headings and their order to be included in the constitution.

On the first part, he briefly stated the party's belief, stand, and activities regarding the National Convention.

Emphatically accepting the important role and aspirations of the National Convention with national outlook, the party is cooperating with full of preparations made beforehand, he said. It is an important task to hold discussions at the National Convention for writing the state constitution and that is why, he said, the party stated its aims and aspirations in the foreword of the party's book on the state constitution that writings and speeches must be made with full responsibility, farsightedness, fairness, and magnanimity.

He further spoke of the party's aims and aspirations stated in the book, which was published before the National Convention was held, that the National Convention has to be held for writing the constitution as it is the concern of all nationalities but not the concern of an individual person or a group or an organization or a party; at the National Convention, discussions must be held reflecting and upholding viewpoints, desires, and aspirations of all nationalities and political organizations; the National Convention is not for writing the constitution but only for holding discussions pondering over the real situations of the nation and desires and wishes of the nationalities and to lay down fundamental principles for writing the constitution; all have to endeavor at the National Convention not to lose the sight of the aim and determination because of differences and arguments; proper and appropriate solutions and decisions need to be laid down; for the success of the National Convention, all have to cooperate bearing in mind patriotism and to promote nationalist fervor with full magnanimity.

Regarding the chapter headings of the constitution, he said that comparing the eighteen chapter headings suggested by the alternate chairman to the twenty chapter headings submitted by the National Unity Party there are seven headings which are of the same wordings and there are 10 headings which are of similar meanings though different in wordings.

In the Alternate Chairman's suggested chapter headings, he said, the NUP's suggested headings—"commission for protecting rights of the citizens" and "commission for inspecting public services" are excluded. Instead, he continued, the alternate chairman's suggested headings include "provisions on state of emergency."

Though there are differences as well as similarities, the NUP has not held on to only the party's suggested chapter headings and concedes and cooperates as it looks forward to seeing the success of the National Convention, he said. The party accepts the exclusion of its two chapter headings and agrees on the heading "provisions on state of emergency", he added.

He disclosed that the party agrees on the headings "The state structure", "fundamental rights and duties of citizens", "the tatmadaw [defense services]", "public service personnel" and "electoral system" by all means.

However, he said, as to what the alternate chairman called on to present objective suggestions and proposals, the party has suggested to better the usage and wording of the chapter headings with a view to forming clear interpretation and gaining correct wording. Moreover, he stated, the party submitted reasonable suggestions to add the chapter heading "union states".

He noted that there are two prominent points in the clarifications by the National Convention Work Committee Chairman to reconsider whether or not to accept the chapter headings suggested by the alternate chairman as they are and to discuss whether or not to rearrange the order of the chapter headings suggested by the alternate chairman.

The National Convention Work Committee Chairman clarified that the headings "the head of state", "the legislature", and "the executive" are to be designated as suggested by the alternate chairman and to reconsider, if needed, changing of these chapter headings only after the political parties and delegates groups have coordinated the exact chapter headings regarding these three, he said.

He further recounted the clarifications of the work committee chairman that though there are some matters which are not designated as chapter heading, the right to discuss these matters have not been lost, and that a new chapter heading, however, can be designated when it becomes evident after discussing these matters that it is needed and then the delegates groups may discuss it.

Furthermore, he said, the work committee chairman stated that it will ensure obtaining the right to discuss this new chapter heading without any obstruction or hindrance when discussion on the existing chapter headings that are correlated or concerned with the new one are held even though the new chapter headings are not designated at the moment.

He admitted that formerly, they submitted proposals to change the wordings and the terms of chapter headings for fear that they cannot be changed later. However, all went clear after studying the work committee chairman's clarifications, he added.

And as such, he said, the chapter headings suggested by the alternate chairman form basis to enable to hold free and extensive discussions and stated that the chapter headings suggested by the alternate chairman are accepted as there will be the right to designate the chapter headings, without any obstruction, with the consent of all by holding discussions. And accepting the chapter headings as such is in accordance with the stand of the party as to looking forward to seeing to successful and smooth holding of the National Convention, to see to flourishing of spirit of coordination and cooperation and to organize the wishes of all by means of magnanimity and mutual respect, he added.

He emphasized specific interpretation of the two headings "amendment of the constitution" and "amendment of the state constitution", saying that using "amendment of the state constitution" is more accurate and proper as there is a likelihood of the constitution for the state as well as for each union state explaining that if the term is used as "amendment of the constitution" it may be unclear as to which constitution it refers to.

He stated that as "provisions on state of emergency", "transitory provisions", and "general provisions" are constitutional provisions, these headings should be designated as they are.

Then, he submitted the chapter headings to be included in the Constitution according to the following order.

1. Preamble; 2. The state structure; 3. Fundamental principles of the state; 4. Citizens, fundamental rights and duties of the citizens; 5. Head of state; 6. Legislature; 7. Executive; 8. Judiciary; 9. The tatmadaw; 10. Political parties; 11. Electoral system; 12. Amendment of the constitution; 13. State flag, state seal, national anthem, and state capital; 14. Provisions on state of emergency; 15. Transitory provisions; and l6. General provisions.

In conclusion, he stated that these chapter headings and their order emerge according to their opinions, and disclosed that if there are certain changes in accordance with the wishes of all they will accept them by all means.

Union Pa-Oh National Organization

Delegate U Hkun Sein Win submitted a paper of Union Pa-Oh National Organization. He said that their party has presented 19 chapter headings for the state constitution at the national convention plenary session held on 24 February 1993.

He spoke of the three branches—the legislative, the executive, and the judicial—essential for every country. In the three branches, he said, the executive branch is an organization which practically implements the law enacted by the pyithu hluttaw; in other words it is an organization undertaking the leadership role in administration of the economic, social, and security of the country.

He said endeavors are being made to enable the Union of Myanmar [Burma] to practice multiparty democracy system; activities concerning democracy administration should be invariably implemented in villages, wards, townships, and districts; regional administrative should be put under the main executive chapter heading to enable to basically expedite the democratic system in Myanmar.

Public service personnel, he said, is essential for smooth operation of administrative machinery of the whole country; as the public service personnel organizations are to be administered by the State executive organization, the heading for the public service personnel should be included in the executive chapter heading instead of designated as a separate chapter heading.

He mentioned that order of priority of the chapter headings for the state constitution presented by Union Pa-Oh National Organization regarding the address made by alternate chairman U Aung Than at the national convention plenary session on 3 March 1993 is as follows: "Preamble" 1. The fundamental principles of the state; 2. The state structure; 3. The head of state; 4. Legislature; 5. Executive; 6. Judiciary; 7. The tatmadaw; 8. Citizens and their fundamental rights and duties; 9. Elections; 10. Political parties; 11. Provisions on state of emergency; 12. Constitutional amendments; 13. State flag, state seal, national anthem, and state capital; 14. Transitory provisions; and 15. General provisions.

Shan State Kokang Democratic Party

U T Daung Wai, Joint General Secretary of the Shan State Kokang Democratic Party, presented a paper on chapter headings suitable to be included in the writing of the Constitution.

He said, the chairman of the National Convention Work Committee, U Aung Toe, gave clarifications on 24 March 1993 regarding allocation of chapter headings suitable to be included in the constitution at the coordination meeting between the work committee and panel of chairmen in connection with proposal papers submitted by political parties at the group discussions. This clarification was again read out and explained at group discussions of national convention delegates on 25 March 1993 and guidance was given to hold discussions again and to send revised papers on their suggestions and proposals. He said, on behalf of the Shan State Kokang Democratic Party he would discuss and present matters.

He said the points to be discussed and put forward by the Shan State Kokang Democratic Party as suggested by the chairman are—union states; increased power and the rights and responsibilities of autonomous regions; the president; the hluttaws—hluttaw of the union and hluttaw of the states of the union and leading bodies; union government; fundamental rights and duties of citizens; interpretations; and provisions on the state of emergency.

The above-mentioned chapter headings will be discussed chapter by chapter.

Union States: He said, the country, from the time of writing of the 1947 Constitution up to the present day, has been known as the Union of Myanmar for 46 years. It has remained as a union based on regional and geographical aspects. Moreover, it is a well-known fact that the Union of Myanmar was formed with the various states. It can become a union only when there are union states. Therefore, the states play a vital role in the formation of the union and this is one of the characteristics of a union. All the national races desire for the union states to be prescribed as a chapter heading. By fulfilling this aspiration it would be in conformity with our three main national causes—for non-disintegration of the union; for non-disintegration of national solidarity; and for perpetuation of national sovereignty—as this also amounts to genuine democracy and would bring about a peaceful and prosperous Union of Myanmar. Therefore, it is earnestly suggested that "union states" should be allocated as a chapter heading suitable to be included in framing the constitution.

He said, the states play a vital role in the formation of the union which cannot exist without the states. In the same manner, in forming the union states there should be autonomous regions, national territories, villages, village tracts, wards, townships and township zones which are to be joined together in forming the union states. If this characteristic does not exist then the matter of states would not arise. Taking this fact into consideration, a union cannot be formed without including the states and without having autonomous regions and national territories. It is therefore to be suggested that union states and autonomous regions should be allocated as separate chapter headings.

President: Regarding this heading, it is to be regarded that the country would be established as the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. According to traditions it has been a republic and the highest rank is that of the president and therefore the heading should not be state leader but the president as this would be more significant and comprehensive. It is to be suggested that the president should be allocated as the chapter heading.

He said, in connection with this heading, the Shan State Kokang Democratic Party discussed and suggested at the discussions of political parties delegates group on 10 March 1993 to allocate this as a chapter heading together with other headings in framing the constitution.

He said, this heading should be called "the hluttaws". This is so because it includes union hluttaw, hluttaw of the states and autonomous regions and leading bodies. The three sovereign powers—legislature, executive, and judiciary powers lie only within the hluttaw. These three powers come from the people. The public, the owners of these powers would vote for the persons of their choice and elect them and the people themselves would hand over the three sovereign powers to the hluttaw representatives whom they had elected. The body formed with elected pyithu hluttaw representatives is the hluttaw. Therefore, the union hluttaw is the highest organ of power which makes use of the sovereign powers owned by the citizens, on behalf of all the citizens of the state. Hence, it is to be suggested that the organs formed with the three sovereign powers should not be allocated under the heading legislature but as the hluttaws.

He said, the union government arises out of chamber of nationalities and the pyithu hluttaw. This government would be formed with the inclusion of people from the nationalities who possess good insight and are qualified persons. Therefore, it should not be called the government but the chapter heading should be union government in keeping the union which is the name of the state.

He said, the heading fundamental rights and duties of citizens is included in the clarifications made by the work committee chairman and is most appropriate as the heading.

Interpretations: This heading is appropriate and was mentioned in the work committee chairman's clarifications.

Provisions on the state of emergency: Regarding this heading, he said, it is to be suggested that this should be included as a subheading under chapter headings such as hluttaw of the union; union government or the president.

Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization

U Maung Pain alias U Khin Maung Thein, general secretary of Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization presented paper 3/93.

He said panel of chairmen explained the chapter heading "provisions on a state emergency" at the plenary session held on 3 March that one delegate group suggested to include it as a chapter heading. Since it is a heading which is vital for the state and it is to be discussed whether this should be the heading of the chapter. The paper presented on 10 March said that the provisions on state of emergency is sometimes a matter essential for the state. Organs of power and government responsible at that time will have to carry out internal affairs suddenly as they occur in the state.

Similarly, National Convention Convening Work Committee chairman said the provisions on state of emergency is very important for the state and it is essential to protect the situations that endanger the sovereignty of the State and this should be a chapter heading.

Our country has often been changed because of the shortcomings of the state constitution, for there is no guarantee in it for various nationalities living in Myanmar Naing-Ngan [Burma]. National solidarity disintegrated due to lack of firm foundation and the country has experienced situations threatening disintegration of the union. He spoke of the need for a constitution which ensures the benefits of national groups for perpetuation of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

He quoted the work committee chairman's speech delivered on 24 March as saying that all of them including all the political parties, all the groups and delegates are desirous of reaching the objective—emergence of an enduring constitution which they all are striving for at an appropriate time. All of them have the strong desire and eagerness in unanimity to achieve a desired goal. The chairman called on all concerned to discuss among themselves, to exchange opinions and views, to respect each other's opinions and views and to be forgiving. He also called on those who are in the majority not to take the upper hand and those are in the minority not to stick their views but to have the will to respect those of the majority and make compromises.

In conclusion, he stressed the need not to diminish the role of the national groups and entire people in drafting an enduring state constitution.

Lahu National Development Party

U Yaw Aye Hla of Lahu National Development Party said that opinions of the party concerning the address delivered by the alternate chairman at the national convention plenary session on 3 March 1993 have been already submitted by U Kya Har Sheh on 8 March 1993.

Their party, he said, believed that the chapter headings included in the alternate chairman's address are designated as the headings to be approved when the state constitution is actually framed. He said his party has made suggestions, based on the alternate chairman's address, to amend the chapter headings of the head of state to president, the legislature to the union hluttaw, the executive power to the union government; and to designate heading of the union states, included in the chapter heading of state structure, as a separate chapter heading.

He said that the chapter headings included in the 24 March 1993 address of the National Convention are not to be regarded as commonly approved headings and they have been suggested to enable the delegates to hold comprehensive discussions.

He mentioned that his party approved the chapter headings included in the work committee chairman's address.

He clarified that concerning to amendment of constitution presented by his party on 8 March 1993 the word ok-chok [to govern] has been mistakenly included and it is not a term for adding a new heading.

He spoke of his party's approval of headings 'definitions' and 'index to the topics in the constitution' as suggested in the alternate chairman's address.

The headings that his party has approved in order are—Preamble; Fundamental principles of the state; State structure; Head of state; Legislature; the executive; Judiciary; the tatmadaw; Citizens and their fundamental rights and duties; Election; Political parties; Provisions on state of emergency; Amendment of constitution; State flag, state seal, national anthem, and the capital; Transitory provisions; and General provisions.

Union Kayin League

U Saw Mahn Aung of Union Kayin [Karen] League said that after holding many discussions from 9 January 1993, commencement of the convention, to 27 March 1993 the ripe time for approving the chapter headings in writing the constitution has now arrived.

He then spoke about the endeavors being made by delegates in the discussions for compiling suggestions and proposals suitable for fundamental principles in writing the constitution.

He expressed thanks for the opportunity to discuss the term head of state instead of the president of state and legislature instead of bicameral and also thanked for the opportunity to discuss Kayin affairs department, union government under the respective heading. The Kayin affairs department, he mentioned, is not a new chapter and requested to put on record as previously proposed heading.

His party, he said, approved to discuss union states sector under its heading and to designate executive as a heading instead of local government and service personnel, to designate provisions on state of emergency as a separate chapter heading instead of a subheading under other chapters and to designate transitory provisions as a separate chapter heading instead of a subheading.

He spoke of the need to hold the Convention successfully for the emergence of the constitution of the future democratic nation and for the wellbeing of the people.

Kokang Democracy and Unity Party

Delegate U Khin Maung Aye submitted a paper on proposals of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party on two headings—local government and state employees.

He said although a separate heading may not be designated for the state employees who are under various ministries, the delegates can discuss topic and facts about them, placing it under the heading 'the executive'.

Regarding the heading 'local government' he said procedures for local government can be comprehensively discussed under the heading 'the executive' as it is concerned with administrative machinery of the state.

Hence, he proposed the two headings be included under the heading 'the executive'.

He expressed his party's opinion about the order of headings in the constitution. He said comprehensive discussions on each heading are more essential than their order arranged in accordance with the priority and significance of each chapter.

He said his party proposed the following order of headings, not to pose any unnecessary delay to the implementation of the National Convention programs.

The order of headings suggested by the party is—Preamble; Fundamental principles of the state; State structure; Head of state; Legislature; the executive; Judiciary; the tatmadaw; Citizens and their fundamental rights and duties; Election; Political parties; Provisions on state of emergency; Amendment of constitution; State flag, state seal, national anthem, and the capital; Transitory provisions; and General provisions.

Wa National Development Party

U Nyi Pa Loke of Wa National Development Party submitted a paper regarding the allocation of the chapter headings and their order to be included in the constitution.

He stated that the paper is compiled by the proposals of Wa National Development Party delegates and these proposals are constructive views judged on grounds of the real situation and position of the nation.

He said that Wa National Development Party submitted at the plenary session on 25 February, 1993, that the chapter heading "head of state" in group 4 should be designated as "head of state" or "president". It is relevant to designate "head of state" as a heading of chapter as they can freely suggest the headings when discussions on laying down fundamental principles are held, he added.

Regarding "legislature" in group 5, the party presented at the plenary session that the chapter heading should be designated as "union parliament", and regarding "executive" in group 6 they suggested that the heading should be "union government", he said. He continued that the terms "legislature" and "executive" cover wide fields and so these headings should be designated as chapter headings, saying that they will have the full right to suggest whatever chapter headings they like when detailed discussions are held.

He said the headings "judiciary" and "the tatmadaw" should be designated at the chapter headings of groups 7 and 8.

"Local government" in group 9, he said, should not be a chapter by itself and so it should be put under chapter heading "executive", and "fundamental rights and duties of citizens" should be designated as the heading of group 10, he stated.

Continuing, he said that "public service personnel" of group 11 should be put under chapter heading "executive" which will include the roles of the departmental personnel and public service personnel under respective ministries.

Concerning "electoral system" of group 12 and "political parties" of group 13, he said, there is no further suggestions as their party submitted at the plenary session that these headings should be designated as chapter headings.

He emphasized the role of union states in the future democratic state and said that proposals on designating "union states" as a chapter heading were submitted at the plenary session on 25 February 1993 and at the meeting of political parties delegates group on 8 March 1993.

According to what the national convention work committee chairman clarified at the coordination meeting between the work committee and panel of chairmen on 24 March 1993, that if it is evident to allocate "union states" as a chapter heading discussions may be focused on allocation of that heading as a new one, he stated, they will submit suggestions with regard to allocation of that chapter heading later on.

He then presented chapter headings and their order to be included in the constitution as follows: 1. Preamble; 2. Chapter 1—Principles of the state; 3. Chapter 2—State structure; 4. Chapter 3—Head of state; 5. Chapter 4—Legislature; 6. Chapter 5—Executive; 7. Chapter 6—Judiciary; 8. Chapter 7—The tatmadaw; 9. Chapter 8—Fundamental rights and duties of citizens; 10. Chapter 9—Electoral system; 11. Chapter 10—Political parties; 12. Chapter 11—Provisions on state of emergency; 13. Chapter 12—Amendment of constitution; 14. Chapter 13—State flag, state seal, national anthem, and state capital; 15. Chapter 14—Transitory provisions; and 16. Chapter 15—General provisions.

Part Two

BK2204121193 Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 5 Apr 93 pp 9, 10

[Text] **Representative-elect delegates group**

Paper on suggestions made for second time on allocation of chapter headings suitable to be included in the constitution;

The chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee gave clarifications at the coordination meeting between the work committee and the panel of chairmen regarding the allocation of chapter headings suitable to be included in the constitution on 24 March 1993. The respective alternate chairmen explained to their respective representative-elect and other delegate groups the clarifications made by the work committee chairman on 25 March 1993 and gave guidance to hold discussions again and submit their suggestions.

According to such guidance, the National League for Democracy, representing 87 Pyithu Hluttaw [People's

Assembly] representatives, independent-elect delegate of Bahan Township constituency-1 and independent-elect delegate of Kya-in-Seikkyi Township constituency-1 committed their combined proposals as follows:

On studying the clarifications made by national convention work committee chairman, it was presumed that the chapter headings contained in the speech delivered by the alternate chairman at the national convention plenary session on 3 March 1993 were to be discussed again. This presumption is based on the excerpts of the clarifications made by the chairman of the work committee to members of the panel of chairmen on 24 March 1993 as mentioned below—"If a general or broad term is used all political parties and groups would be able to freely discuss and suggest in discussing the chapter headings."

"... When there emerges headings which the political parties prefer, they can deliberate upon them whether or not they should be used in place of current headings..."

"... if there are differences of opinion, the National Convention Work Committee would take necessary steps, in accordance with para 29(i) of Procedures on Convening of National Convention, issued by the National Convention Convening Commission, to settle the differences as far as possible..."

The attitude of the National Convention Convening Work Committee is compiled in detail and clearly stated and clarified. However, it is necessary for the chapter headings of the constitution to be clearly understandable and should not contain words which are ambiguous. The undermentioned excerpt of the speech of the chairman of the work committee should be regarded with much seriousness.

"... the tasks to be carried out by the National Convention in session are important to the State and the people and they are as vital as life itself as the panel of chairmen has observed, the tasks are heavy, delicate and full of essence. Therefore, the matters are to be discussed with patience for the benefit of the state and the people..."

The National League for Democracy had also discussed that the constitution is as vital to the state as life itself. Therefore discussions on chapter headings would be made objectively.

As all will be engaged in the construction of a new democratic state, all should begin from now in practicing according to the democratic principles and at the same time not to lose sight of the 12 pillars of democracy. The pillars are;

1. the sovereign power emanates from the people
2. human dignity is not to be undermined
3. the government should be based on the aspirations of the people
4. majority or the winning political organization is to govern
5. respecting the rights of the minority
6. respecting the basic human rights
7. holding free and fair elections
8. all should be equal before the law
9. management work should be carried out according to law
10. Government should be restricted by the Constitution
11. all benefits should be taken into consideration in political, economic, and social matters
12. to honor such matters as having patience, working to bring about benefits, cooperating and understanding one another.

The constitution is the fundamental law of the land, in other words the supreme law of the land according to the definition given by a politician.

All the national convention delegates unanimously agreed on the headings preamble, judiciary, and elections. There is nothing more to discuss. They should be allocated as separate headings.

Regarding the headings—fundamental principles of the state; state structure; tatmadaw; citizens and fundamental rights and duties of the citizens; amendment to the constitution; state flag, state emblem, national anthem, and the capital and general provisions—there are no difference in meaning but only a slight difference in one or two wordings, there is nothing to be discussed.

As different national races reside in the country we earnestly respect all their affairs including their political, economic, social, democratic, and local governments. Therefore, "local governments" should be kept under a separate heading and the matter of states and divisions was discussed to be able to prescribe it in detail.

However, according to the address by work committee chairman it was mentioned that local government will not come under a separate heading but would be placed under the heading administration. The divisions, states, and formation of new states, relations between the union and states are to be included under the state structure and discussed under it. Therefore the heading local government to be allocated separately would not be discussed and there is nothing to be discussed regarding the arrangements of the National Convention Work Committee. The heading local government should be deleted.

He said that there was nothing to discuss on the heading "political parties". He proposed again that a chapter heading had to be included under that heading.

In the address of the national convention convening work committee chairman, it was stated, that the respective political parties and groups are to further discuss and submit their suggestions so that "local government" and "state service personnel" will be discussed under the chapter heading "administration". Accordingly, he said, the National League for Democracy had no more suggestions in this respect. It would be according to the work committee chairman's address, he said.

In connection with the heading "interpretation" no suggestions would be made since the national convention convening work committee chairman stated that respective articles could be written in such a way that they can be fully understood and cannot be controversial in the future. Hence, it is proposed that there should not be a separate heading for it.

He said that the headings should be in the following order: preamble; fundamental principles; state structure; hluttaw [assembly]; the president, the government; judiciary; the tatmadaw [defense services]; citizens and fundamental rights and duties of citizens; electoral system; political parties; amendment of the constitution; state flag, state emblem, national anthem, and the capital; general provisions.

As mentioned in the national convention objectives aimed at introducing genuine multiparty democratic system, establishing the Myanmar [Burmese] society imbued with the right preconditions for the burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values such as justice, liberty, and equality and building a new nation based on democratic system, the group, keeping all these in mind, urged all to make concerted efforts to produce the best results.

Representatives-elect

Representative-elect U Tuang Kho Thang of Tamu Township submitted the paper on allocation of chapter headings on behalf of the representatives-elect delegates group.

He said that political parties included in the group were: Shan Nationalities League for Democracy, National Unity Party, Union Pa-Oh National Organization, Shan State Kokang Democratic Party, and Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization. And independent representatives-elect were U Khin Maung Cho of Dimawhso Township-1, Dr Hmu Thang of Thantlang Township, U Tun Kyaw of Namhsan Township, U Tuang Kho Thang of Tamu Township, and U Aung Thein of Ywangan Township.

He said that the group submitted a paper to the group discussions on 15-3-93 in connection with the headings "head of state", "legislature", "administration" and "states".

It was explained that the alternate chairman of the national convention plenary session on 3-3-93 asked whether the heading "legislature" should be designated as a heading or not. The group had proposed that the term should be changed into "pyidaungsu hluttaw [union assembly]" at the group discussions held on 15-3-93. In presenting the group's proposal to the plenary session on 25-2-93, the group stated that the state to be established is made up of different national races residing together and the union came into being following the signing of the historic Panglong Agreement, that the first objective of the national convention being the non-disintegration of the union reflects that there should be a union, and that the group was of the opinion that the state to be established should be a union and there was no other way.

At the group discussions held on 15-3-93 too, it was discussed that our nation is being called "pyidaungsu", union, starting from the regaining of independence and that it was evident according to the national convention objectives our nation is to practice genuine multiparty democratic system. Hence, he said, authority or power should derive from the people. People's representatives or representatives-elect are to make use of the three sovereign powers. It is known to all that the term "hluttaw" constitutes the place where people's representatives meet to deal with legal matters. "hluttaw" is concerned not only with law making but also with sovereign powers of the state on behalf of the people. Hence, the term "hluttaw" will be more appropriate than "legislature".

Chairman of the national convention plenary session on 3-3-93 explained the chapter heading "legislature" and he mentioned that nine political parties and groups submitted proposals in connection with the term "legislature". The chairman also made it known that there were altogether 16 political parties and groups that suggested to use the term "hluttaw" or its equivalent or similar term.

Our country is not established as a single state but as a union state and it would be the same in the future. Moreover, the term "hluttaw" will have deeper meaning and provide better understanding and still it will be more suitable when the term "pyidaungsu", union, is added to it. That was why the group had proposed a change to "pyidaungsu—union—hluttaw" from "legislature", he said.

The national convention convening work committee chairman's clarifications that political parties and groups concerned were to further discuss the order of chapter headings and the group accordingly proposed that the order should be as in the following: preamble; fundamental principles; state structure; the president; pyidaungsu—union—hluttaw; union government; judiciary; the tatmadaw; states; citizens, fundamental rights and duties of citizens; electoral system; political parties; provisions on state of emergency; amendment of constitution; state flag, state emblem, national anthem, and the capital; provisions for the period of transition, and general provisions.

Nationalities delegates

U Saw Reh Mi, nationalities delegate, said that the group has already explained on 10 February 1993 the preamble and 17 headings for the constitution approved by nationalities delegates and members of the panel of chairman.

Of the headings presented by the delegates at the plenary session of the national convention, he said, preamble and 16 headings are the same with compiled headings submitted by the alternate chairman.

As headings of the attorney general and auditor general put forward by the delegates were included in the headings of executive and judicial compiled by the alternate chairman of the plenary session of the national convention, these headings have been already approved, he said.

He said that regional administrative and state service personnel should not be designated as chapter headings, it should be designated as subheadings under the executive chapter heading because these headings were included in the executive heading in the alternate chairman's address.

He said that heading of provisions on state of emergency is not included in the group's proposals; he believed it is included in the general provisions of the group; however the group approved it to be a separate chapter heading.

He said that 'definitions' and 'index to the topics in the constitution' should not be designated as a separate heading and spoke of the need to write the 'definitions' in a meaningful, comprehensive, and indisputable way.

Order of priority of the chapter headings have been already submitted by the group, he said. The headings that his group has approved in order are—preamble; fundamental principles of the state; state structure; head of state; legislative; the executive; judiciary; the tatmadaw; citizens and their fundamental rights and duties; election; political parties; provisions on state of emergency; amendment of constitution; state flag, state emblem, national anthem, and the capital; transitory provisions; and general Provisions.

Peasants' delegates

U Sai San Tun of Kyaukme presented a proposal paper on the chapter headings submitted by the peasants' delegate group. He said group members had candid and comprehensive discussions to their hearts content on 3, 4, and 25 March 1993 following the address by alternate chairman U Aung Than at the national convention plenary session on 3 March and the address by national convention convening work committee chairman U Aung Toe at the meeting between the work committee and the panel of chairmen on 24 March.

In these discussions, he said, the group decided to propose 15 headings instead of 24 headings it proposed at the 9-2-93 plenary session.

Concerning 'preamble', he said the group had decided to propose it as a separate heading and not as a chapter.

He said the group members unanimously decided to propose that the heading 'interpretation' not be designated as a separate chapter and instead, complete interpretations should be given in every section of the constitution.

The group also decided that the heading 'index to the topics in the constitution' not be provided as a chapter and instead, an index should be compiled when publishing the constitution, he said.

Concerning the local government, he said as it is concerned with administration, it should be put under the heading the Executive.

He spoke of the group's discussions on the heading 'state employees'. He said comprehensive discussions on it can be conducted under the heading the executive and proposed that it not be designated as a separate chapter.

The headings in his submission, which should not be given as separate chapters, are preamble, interpretations, index to the topics in the constitution, and state employees.

Sixteen headings including preamble that he submitted in order are—preamble; fundamental principles of the state; state structure; head of state; legislature; the executive; judiciary; the tatmadaw; citizens and their fundamental rights and duties; election; political parties; provisions on state of emergency; amendment of constitution; state flag, state emblem, national anthem, and the capital; transitory provisions; and general provisions.

He said all these proposals had been submitted with unanimous approval of the peasant delegates.

Workers' delegate group

Daw Aye Kyi of Ywathitgyi, Sagaing Township, Sagaing Division, submitted a paper on discussions of the workers' delegate group which dealt with an address given by the alternate chairman of the plenary session of the national convention on 3-3-93 in which he requested to reconsider 20 chapter headings after compiling all the suggested headings to be included or not.

The workers' delegate group then held group meeting on 3-3-93 and discussed the chapter headings presented by the alternate chairman.

Thirteen workers' delegates discussed at the meeting. The meeting decided to allocate 17 chapter headings out of 20 chapters presented by the alternate chairman.

The heading, preamble always consists in every constitution. Therefore, it should not be placed under separate heading and also is the interpretation. A method, which can give full interpretation in an article concerned, easy to understand by all and not to arise arguments after, should be used. The meeting also decided that the index of the constitution should not be included as a separate chapter but an index should be compiled when publishing the constitution.

Eight workers' delegates on 26-3-93 discussed the suggestions in an address given by the work committee chairman U Aung Toe on 25-3- 93. Some delegates discussed and coordinated extensively chapter headings suggested in an address delivered by plenary session chairman U Aung Than on 3-3-93. Therefore it continued to suggest the headings, "local government" and "public service personnel" as separate chapter headings.

Most delegates suggested that the two headings should be placed under the chapter heading of "executive" which would not lack the essence as suggested by the work committee chairman.

All delegates decided that the headings, 'local government' and 'public service personnel' are the executive affairs. They should not be taken as separate headings but should put under the chapter heading, "executive".

In conclusion, she stated the headings and the order decided by the workers' delegate group as follows:—preamble; 1. Basic principles of state; 2. State structure; 3. Head of state; 4. Legislature; 5. Executive; 6. Judiciary; 7. The tatmadaw; 8. Fundamental rights and duties of citizens; 9. Elections; 10. Political Parties; 11. Provisions on state of emergency; 12. Amendment of constitution; 13. State flag, state emblem, national anthem, and state capital; 14. Transitory provisions; and 15. General provisions.

Intelligentsia and technocrat delegates

Rector Dr Tha Hla Shwe of Institute of Medicine-2 presented a proposal paper of the intelligentsia and technocrat delegate group.

He spoke of the group's discussions on the allocation of chapter headings on 3, 4, and 25 March. He said the discussions were conducted with the guidelines in the 3 March address by the alternate chairman and in the 24 March address by work committee chairman U Aung Toe.

It was found at the discussions that 25 headings previously suggested by the group covered the 20 headings put forward by the alternate chairman.

He said the group members previously approved that two headings 'local government' and 'state employees' should be designated as separate chapters, and however, it was later unanimously agreed for proposal to place them under the heading the executive as they are concerned with administrative matters.

In accordance with the group members' approval, he presented the headings in an order agreed by the group: They were—preamble; fundamental principles of the state; head of state; legislature; the executive; judiciary; the tatmadaw; citizens and their fundamental rights and duties; election; political parties; provisions on state of emergency; amendment of constitution; transitory provisions; and general provisions.

He said it was only the group's approved order and spoke of the group's agreement to any necessary change.

Public service personnel delegate group

U San Aung of the ministry of energy submitted paper of compiled proposals of the public service personnel delegates group regarding allocation of chapter headings and their order to be included in the constitution.

He said that their group submitted 17 chapter headings at the national convention plenary session on 26 February 1993, and that the alternate chairman, on 3 March 1993, suggested 20 chapter headings after compiling proposals of respective groups.

He stated that their group agrees with allocation of "preamble" in the constitution, but it should not be allocated a separate chapter.

Regarding "provisions on state of emergency", he said that their group approves to designate it as a chapter heading as there may be states of emergency occur in the country concerning political and military affairs as well as situations regarding prevalence of law and order, health, and natural disasters.

Their group, he said, agrees with allocation of "state flag, state seal, national anthem, and state capital" as a chapter heading, and designating "attorney general" and "auditor general" as articles under chapter heading "executive".

He stated that "interpretation" should not be allocated as a separate chapter heading and suggested to write fully-comprehensible articles to avoid contradictions and disputes.

"Index", he said, should not be allocated as a separate chapter heading and suggested that it should be included when the constitution is published.

Continuing, he stated that their delegate group approves to change "principles of the state" to "state principles" and allocation of "local government" and "public service personnel" as articles under chapter heading "executive".

In conclusion, he stated the chapter headings and their order as follows: Preamble; Chapter 1 State principles; Chapter 2 State structure; Chapter 3 Head of state; Chapter 4 Legislature; Chapter 5 Executive; Chapter 6 Judiciary; Chapter 7 The tatmadaw; Chapter 8 Fundamental rights and duties of citizens; Chapter 9 Electoral system; Chapter 10 Political parties; Chapter 11 Provisions on state of emergency; Chapter 12 Amendment of constitution; Chapter 13 State flag, state emblem, national anthem, and state capital; Chapter 14 Transitory provisions; and Chapter 15 general provisions.

Other invited delegates

Other invited delegate U Hsay Htin said the compiled suggestions and proposals for chapter headings, of the group, suitable in framing the state constitution have been presented to National Convention Work Committee on 10 March 1993; the work committee and members of panel of chairman held discussions on suggestions and proposals submitted by the respective groups.

The headings that his party has approved in order are—preamble; fundamental principles of the state; state structure; head of state; legislature; the executive; judiciary; the tatmadaw; local government; citizens and their fundamental rights and duties; state service personnel; election; political parties; provisions on state of emergency; amendment of constitution; state flag, state emblem, national anthem, and the capital; transitory provisions; and general provisions.

The group, he said, has no opinion to propose separate chapter headings on 'definitions' and 'index to the topics in the constitution'.

He said that provisions on nationalities and defense will not be designated as separate chapter headings proposed on 10 March 1993 and discussions will be made on chapter headings concerned with the two; the group will not make any objections if the headings concern local government and state service personnel would be included in the executive heading; and the group will agree if the two headings are designated as separate chapter headings by other groups.

He said that he believed the compiled suggestions and proposals for chapter headings put forward by the group will be actually suitable in framing the state constitution.

Ministers Receive SRV Deputy Foreign Minister

BK2704012893 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Mr. Vu Khoan, deputy foreign minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV], who is currently visiting Yangon [Rangoon] at the invitation of U Nyunt Swe, deputy foreign minister, visited the Shwedagon Pagoda at 0800 today. The SRV deputy foreign minister, accompanied by Vietnamese Ambassador Mr. Nguyen Van Tiep, was welcomed by pagoda trustees. The visiting deputy foreign minister signed the visitors book and presented a donation for the pagoda.

The visiting SRV deputy foreign minister and his delegation called on Lieutenant General Kyaw Ba, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and minister of hotel and tourist industry, at the Ministry of Hotel and Tourist Industry on Sule Pagoda Road. In the afternoon the visiting deputy minister called on U Ohn Gyaw, foreign minister, at the Foreign Ministry Annex and Brigadier General Abel, minister of national planning and economic development, at the office of the Foreign Investment Commission.

In the evening, Deputy Foreign Minister U Nyunt Swe hosted a dinner in honor of the visiting deputy foreign minister at the People's Park Restaurant.

Oil, Gas Discovered in Mergui, Tenasserim Division

BK2404090593 Rangoon Burma Television Network in English 1500 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Oil and natural gas of commercial quantity have been discovered in the Myanmar [Burma] offshore areas—west of Myeik [Mergui] and Tennaserim Division. The Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise [MOGE] and Premier Petroleum Company of Britain, Texaco Petroleum Company of the United States of America, and Nippon Oil Company of Japan had jointly undertaken the exploration and drilling of oil in offshore blocks M-12, M-13, and M-14.

Drilling of the first Ye Tagun test well was started by the drilling ship, Deep Sea Ice, in October last year and commercial scale production has been achieved. The volume of production of crude is 2,600 barrels and 107 million cubic feet of natural gas per day.

Drilling of Myanmar offshore block M-12, M-13, and M-14 have continued and thick crude was discovered from Zakawa test well No. 1 in December last year.

Drilling of the second Ye Tagun test well was started in March this year. Drilling of second Ye Tagun test well was successfully completed in the first week of this month and is producing 2,800 barrels of crude oil and 85 million cubic feet of natural gas per day.

A drilling of Ye Thiha test well No. 1—40 miles south of Ye Tagun—is being carried out and the prospects are good.

In January 1992, an agreement was signed between the MOGE of the Ministry of Energy, the Total Oil Company of France, and Unocal Oil Company of America to produce natural gas in Moketama [Martaban] offshore area. The Yadana natural gas well No.1 was drilled in March 1993 at the Moketama offshore -80 miles south of Bogale Township, Irrawaddy Division—and on the (twelfth) of this month it became successful on a commercial basis with 70 million cubic feet of natural gas being produced daily from a 340-foot limestone layer. Drilling has also begun at Yadana well No. 2.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Ministry To Probe Firm's Purchase of Military Plane

BK2204162193 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Transport Minister Dr. Ling Liong Sik said in Kuala Lumpur today that the Civil Aviation Department, DCA, will investigate the purchase of a military transport plane by a local air charter firm. He said that the Shorts SC-7 skyvan aircraft was reported to have been purchased from Botswana Defense Force by Pan Malaysian Air Transport Sendirian Berhad [Company Limited], PMAT. The aircraft was intercepted by the U.S. Federation of Aviation Authority, FAA, on Tuesday in Singapore.

Datuk Sri Dr. Ling said that his ministry was not aware of the incident. According to the minister, the purchase of an aircraft by a private firm for charter flights should be preceded by first obtaining a permit from the DCA.

Newspaper reports stated that the 20-seater aircraft was bought for 550,000 U.S. dollars. It was flown to Kuala Lumpur on Sunday by using documents said to have been issued by the FAA central headquarters in Oklahoma, United States.

Datuk Sri Dr. Ling could not tell for sure whether or not the purchase of the aircraft was with the DCA's approval. He said authorities will be ordered to probe the matter, including the airworthiness of the aircraft.

FAA Interception of Craft Detailed

BK2304114993 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 22 Apr 93 p 8

[By R.V. Veera]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Wed—A Shorts SC-7 transport military aircraft bought from the Botswana Defence Force by a Malaysian charter aviation firm was intercepted by United States Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) agents at Singapore's Seletar airport yesterday afternoon.

The FAA agents were believed to have questioned the two crew members, one of whom is believed to be a Malaysian, to verify information that the aircraft documents had been falsely issued in the United States.

Pan Malaysian Air Transport Sdn Bhd [Company Limited] [PMAT] had bought the aircraft for US$550,000 (about RM [Malaysia ringgit] 1.3 million).

It is not clear if the PMAT had obtained the necessary approval from the Government to bring in the former military aircraft.

Senior Defence Ministry officials when contacted were puzzled as to how the aircraft with its full military camouflage colours was allowed to land at Subang.

Sources said the 20-seater aircraft, one of the two used by the Botswana Defence Force, was flown here on Sunday purportedly using documents issued by the FAA central headquarters in Oklahoma, United States.

It was piloted by a foreigner accompanied by his woman companion and kept at the company's hangar in Subang, they said.

They added that the aircraft was parked overnight for it to be resprayed in the standard white and red colours of PMAT aircraft.

It flew off the following morning to Seletar with the hope of enlisting the help of a Singaporean firm to obtain a certificate of airworthiness.

This is necessary to enable the aircraft to be registered with the DCA [Department of Civil Aviation] here.

However, the Singapore firm turned down the request after discovering certain discrepancies in flying the aircraft from its original base in South Africa to Malaysia and to Singapore.

Under international civil aviation regulations, it is compulsory for an aircraft operator to put up a flight plan giving details of its flight from its original base to its final destination.

It is also mandatory for aircraft to have aviation service bulletins and airworthiness directories.

When contacted by telephone in Singapore, a FAA official confirmed they were investigating alleged irregularities but declined to give details.

It is learnt that a PMAT official who was informed of the FAA action had arrived in Singapore to look into the matter.

PMAT had apparently bought the second-hand Skyvan to replace a civilian model of the aircraft which went down off Medan in January this year with 16 occupants including its managing director Piaruddin Fathodin.

The aircraft and its occupants had never been found despite an extensive search of inland and coastal areas.

Another Skyvan in the company's stable was also damaged in February this year when it was forced to make an emergency landing in Langkawi after a chartered flight.

It is believed that the move to buy the Botswana Defence Force's Skyvan is linked to the contract between Tenaga Nasional Berhad [National Elecricity Corporation] and PMAT to undertake cloud seeding operations over the Temenggor area in Perak to raise water levels in the lakes.

Mahathir Discusses UMNO Leadership, Rulers' Immunity

BK2704154093 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1300 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] UMNO [United Malays National Organization] President Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said a possibility of disunity arising from party elections can be lessened if UMNO members remained united and accept the present line-up. He said everyone knew that UMNO became divided and was ruled illegal because of the jostling to become party president. To get votes, all types of methods will be used, such as the buying over of people.

He was responding to reporters' question after opening a seminar on business ethics organized jointly by the Harvard Club and the Permodalan Nasional Berhad, PMB [National Capital Investment Limited] in Genting Highlands.

He was asked to comment on the statement by UMNO vice president Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim three days ago that Datuk Sri Anwar would not challenge Encik [Mr.] Ghafar Baba for the UMNO deputy president's post in the November party elections. Asked whether Datuk Sri Anwar should contest for the post of deputy president if he received many nominations, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said it was up to Datuk Sri Anwar. But being nominated did not mean that the person should contest. He said it was the delegates' right to nominate and it was the nominee's right to decide whether he wished to contest or otherwise. He said he himself last time received many nominations but few votes. On the way many people offering to contest for the vice president's post, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said it was normal before an election but he believed they would withdraw at the last moment when they realized that they did not have much support. Asked whether it was a healthy development when too many mentris besar [chief ministers] offered to contest the vice president's post, he said UMNO practised the democratic system. He said they have the right to contest, the right to decide whether such contest should bring victory or otherwise. And also the right to consider the effects from such contest.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir was also asked to comment on the memorandum handed over to him yesterday by the Parti Semangat 46 [Spirit of 46 Party] Youth Movement, which among other things called for a stop to criticism of the Malay rulers. He said the government had to explain to the people beforehand the criminal activities committed by the rulers before drawing up legislation to delete their immunity.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said if the people do not know the government is drawing up such legislation, they will think the government is coming up with such law for no reason at all. He said the Semangat 46 youths said they did not support the crime committed by the rulers, but at the same time when the Constitution amendment was tabled in the Dewan Rakyat [Legislative Assembly] the party did not support it. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said it followed therefore that if the party did not support the amendment, it meant it supported the criminal activities of the rulers.

Commentary Views Polish Deputy Premier's Visit

BK2404152393 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Since the fall of communism and the end of the cold war, Malaysia has been active in the pursuit of enhancing closer ties with the former communist countries, especially in trade and economic cooperation. The visits by prime minister and his delegation, comprising government officials and businessmen, have proven fruitful and beneficial. And this week, Malaysia was pleased to host Poland's deputy prime minister and his delegation on their three-day visit to this country.

Poland is in the process of liberalizing its economy and introducing reforms that were unheard of when it was under the former communist regime. The visiting Polish leader Henryk said in Kuala Lumpur during his visit that his country was stabilizing under its reform policy toward a market economy.

Trade between Malaysia and Poland is relatively small, averaging about U.S. $40 million a year. Investment, either way, has so far been negligible. The private sectors of both countries will do well to establish regular contacts to study the potential that exists in each other's country.

There are vast opportunities available in each that can be taken advantage of for mutual benefit. The two countries' tourism links are poised to increase in the near future. It is thought that air links will be established soon, which is necessary for the forging of closer bilateral relations. Dr. Mahathir has expressed the hope that efforts to establish air links will receive the cooperation of the Polish authorities.

Poland is stated to have expressed its willingness to buy more palm oil from Malaysia and has offered its cooperation in science and technology and exchange of scientists. Malaysia is willing to assist in the development of palm oil-related industries in Poland.

There are several other areas in which the two countries can enhance trade and economic cooperation with each other. It is toward this end that the Malaysia-Poland Business Council, MPBC, was established under the umbrella of the joint cooperation agreement signed between the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia and its counterpart in Poland. The cooperation was reaffirmed with the signing of a memorandum of understanding in Kuala Lumpur this week during the Polish deputy prime minister's visit.

Another important document that was signed was the Investment Guarantee Agreement, IGA, which will not only further generate the flow of investment, but also contribute to greater individual business initiative.

With greater cooperation between both the developing countries, Malaysian businessmen can use Poland as the gateway into the Eastern European market, while Polish investors can make Malaysia as springboard to the ASEAN region.

Friendship Association Strives To Improve PRC Ties

BK2604105093 Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English 25 Apr 93 p 6

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Sat.—The Malaysia-China Friendship Association hopes to improve cultural and economic ties between the two countries. Its vice chairman Datuk Abdul Aziz Ahmad said the basis for such ties would be friendship between the peoples of both nations.

The four and a half month-old association, which has Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed as its patron, is an affiliate of the 39-year-old Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC). Its members comprise Malaysians of all races.

At a press conference this morning to welcome a four-member delegation from the CPAFFC, Abdul Aziz said the association would strive to foster stronger ties among its membership.

The Chinese delegation headed by CPAFFC Vice Chairman Chen Haosu arrived here on a week-long visit yesterday to attend the Friendship Night on Friday [30 April] at the Hotel Istana.

The delegation will also study the association's activities here as a China-Malaysia Friendship Association is expected to be set up soon. The association is expected to be headed by former Chinese ambassador to Malaysia Mr. Hu Gang.

Among the Association's 776 members are Culture, Arts, and Tourism Minister Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik and Deputy Works Minister Kerk Choo Ting. The association chairman is Datuk Usman Awang.

Dr. Mahathir and Chinese Ambassador Jin Guihua are expected to attend the dinner. The same night, several companies and prominent Malaysians will be making monetary contributions to the association.

Australia Withholds Comment on EAEC Position

BK2604151293 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Australia, a strong supporter of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC], will announce its stance on the East Asian Economic Caucus [EAEC] only after the forum becomes a reality. Australian Trade Minister Senator Peter Cook said in Kuala Lumpur APEC has now adequately served as an important consultative forum on trade issues in the Asia-Pacific region and the economies of its members should accordingly be consolidated.

According to him, Australia believes APEC, of which Australia and Malaysia are members, is very valuable in an environment of possible trade tension between the United States and Japan and other East Asian economies. Senator Cook said Australia is expected to announce in July a national trade strategy that will give greater emphasis on encouraging trade with ASEAN, including Malaysia.

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge Detain Four UN Policemen in Yeah Ath

BK2704080793 Hong Kong AFP in English 0708 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 27 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge guerrillas in northwestern Cambodia are refusing to let four U.N. policemen leave a refugee repatriation site because of concerns over the safety of returnees there, a U.N. official said Tuesday.

The four U.N. civilian policemen, two French and two Moroccans, had not been allowed to leave Yeah Ath village following an attack on the site Sunday by Phnom Penh government troops, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said.

The position of the Khmer Rouge was that the U.N. policemen "have to stay to protect the returnees," Falt said.

"I would like to stress that they are not prisoners or held there in any way," he added.

A U.N. policeman from the nearby town of Sisopho had visited Yeah Ath on Monday bringing fresh supplies for his four colleagues and holding talks with the Khmer Rouge commander there, Falt said.

The U.N. reported Monday that some 130 Phnom Penh troops attacked Yeah Ath on Sunday morning.

During the attack Khmer Rouge guerrillas surrounded the U.N. police post, apparently to protect unarmed policemen inside, a U.N. official said. No one was injured during the attack, Falt said.

The Phnom Penh government Tuesday denied that its troops were responsible for Sunday's attack.

There were no Phnom Penh government units in the area. The fighting was a result of a business dispute between rival Khmer Rouge factions, Phnom Penh government spokesman Khieu Kanharit said.

During Sunday's attack, Khmer Rouge troops seized two U.N. vehicles and were promising to return them only after Phnom Penh troops had left the area, Falt said.

Phnom Penh troops had withdrawn from a position they had occupied on Sunday but were still in the vicinity of Yeah Ath, he added.

One U.N. official who asked to remain anonymous said Sunday's attack by Phnom Penh troops was "clearly a provocation".

The situation in the area was tense, he said, with Phnom Penh troops "itching for a fight" with the Khmer Rouge.

Some 3,200 refugees have been officially moved to the Khmer Rouge-controlled settlement from camps in Thailand under a U.N. repatriation programme.

Another 3,000 people had moved to the the village from elsewhere in Cambodia, Falt said Tuesday.

The Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction, boycotting elections in late May, is widely suspected of a recent spate of bloody attacks on Vietnamese settlers in Cambodia as well as on U.N. peacekeepers.

General Staff Reports 'Cruel' Khmer Rouge Attacks

BK2604152193 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] A report from the Cambodian People's Armed Forces General Staff says the Khmer Rouge rebels committed gross and cruel violations in four areas controlled by the State of Cambodia [SOC] in Kompong Thom, Kompong Speu, and Banteay Meanchey Provinces on 13, 14, and 19 April. In those attacks, four people were killed and 13 others wounded, a gun was taken away, an armored carrier was set ablaze, and an UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] vehicle was seized.

On the night of 13 April in Banteay Meanchey Province, a group of 50-70 Khmer Rouge bandits from the 519th Division launched an attack on the market at (Set Vari) Commune in Preah Net Preah District. They sprayed the people's houses with machine gun fire and robbed their property. As a result, three villagers were killed and three others wounded, two motorcycles were set on fire, and more than 383 grams of gold and a significant quantity of materials taken away.

On 14 April, the Khmer Rouge launched two attacks in Kompong Thom Province while our people were celebrating the traditional new yea there. At 0500, the Khmer Rouge bandits from Division 802 raided the office building of Krayea Commune in Santuk District, some 35 km south of the provincial town of Kompong Thom. Three villagers were wounded in the attack. And at 2030, a group of Pol Pot-Ieng Sary-Khieu Samphan-Ta Mok bandits attacked the living quarters of the Polish UNTAC peacekeepers at the provincial airport in Voal Yeav Commune, some 10 km north of the Kompong Thom provincial town. It is reported that the Khmer Rouge attackers were from Division 616. They took away an AK assault rifle, [words indistinct] of dry foods, and a great quantity of materials. The report does not say whether the UNTAC troops fought back.

And at 0215 on 19 April in Kompong Speu Province, a group of 100-120 Khmer Rouge bandits from Divisions 18 and 19 attacked from many directions with ground forces and artillery shelling the innocent Cambodian people, the UNTAC electoral office, and the position of the UNTAC Bulgarian battalion in the seat of Aoral Thmei District. As a result, a UN Bulgarian peacekeeper was killed and seven persons—including four Bulgarian soldiers, an Indonesian soldier, an interpreter, and a policeman of the State of Cambodia—were wounded.

In the aforementioned attacks, the Khmer Rouge bandits destroyed four houses of the innocent people, eight district office buildings, a district hospital building, 500 kilograms of paddy, two tonnes of rice, and seven firearms. They also robbed the people of about 430 grams of gold, 4,238,000 riel, 3,000 baht, nine motorbikes, two cassette players, four television sets, 100 sets of clothes, and a significant quantity of other material. As for UNTAC, it lost an armored vehicle destroyed by the Khmer Rouge and a Toyota land cruiser taken away by the Khmer Rouge.

It is worth mentioning that the attack is the second raid launched by the Khmer Rouge on the innocent people in Aoral Thmei District following the first one they committed on 23 March 1993. And the attack in which a UN Bulgarian peacekeeper was killed is the second onslaught on the UNTAC Bulgarian contingent in the province since the first cruel attack occurred on 2 April 1993.

It is said that the gross and savage violations took place after the Khmer Rouge chiefs' departure from Phnom Penh.

Commentary Details Reasons for PDK Pull-out

BK2504090993 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Station commentary: "The General Public Is Asking Why Has the Party of Democratic Kampuchea of His Excellency Khieu Samphan Decided to Leave its Office in Phnom Penh"]

[Text] The general public, including observers and most UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] staff members, have said that constant insecurity is one of the main causes that made the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] of His Excellency Khieu Samphan decide to leave its office in Phnom Penh. However, another important cause is that a series of meetings of the Supreme National Council [SNC] have been unproductive.

The UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] chieftains, the alliances in and outside UNTAC, the Yuon [pejorative term for Vietnamese] invaders, and the Yuon puppets have not implemented the Paris accord. At every SNC meeting, they only discuss the election issue. They never raise the question of whether the SNC has already been given the function as the sole legitimate organization and source of power in Cambodia during the transition, nor do they talk about the issue of verifying the withdrawal of the Yuon aggressor forces from Cambodia; the issue of the SNC cooperating with UNTAC to run the five ministries; the issue of the Yuon and puppets instigating insecurity and assassinating the Cambodian people and members of various political parties; and the issue of the puppet police guarding ballot boxes.

In light of those problems, the PDK has repeatedly demanded that every provision of the Paris agreement be correctly implemented as Khieu Samphan again called for in his 15 April statement.

Now it is reported that they plan to make a security arrangement. With regard to this question, we wish to ask:

1. Has UNTAC already given the SNC the role—as the unique legitimate organization and source of power in Cambodia during the transitional period—in representing Cambodia's national independence, sovereignty,

and unity? This means the quadripartite SNC is the representative, not the Vietnamese-installed puppet regime that UNTAC has strived to preserve. And has UNTAC already verified the withdrawal of the Yuon aggressor forces from Cambodia?

2. Has UNTAC already cooperated with the four-party SNC to control the five ministries? And have a neutral political environment and security already existed in Cambodia?

The elections are not the unique issue. In other words, all the aforementioned problems have to be definitely resolved in order to allow Cambodia to achieve national reconciliation and recover peace and the people to earn a living in a safe condition.

Khmer Rouge Intensify Activities in April

BK2704130893 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1130 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Phnom Penh 27 Apr (SPK)—According to the National Security Ministry, in the second half of this month, the Khmer Rouge intensified their military activities in a number of provinces in order to sabotage the election process.

On 23 April, about 100 Khmer Rouge rebels from Division 912 infiltrated the Districts of (?Angkor Chum), Puok, and Prey Ko Chas [as received] in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province in an attempt to attack these districts.

As for Banteay Meanchey Province's police, they said 20 Khmer Rouge rebels from Division 518 recently infiltrated Phnum Leap Commune in Preah Net Preah District to confiscate voter-registration cards from the local villagers.

And according to a report from Kompong Thom Province, the commander of the 616th Khmer Rouge Division recently ordered his men to blow up bridges along a route linking the Kompong Thom provincial town with Siem Reap Province.

Hun Sen Addresses Voters in Kampot 18 Apr

BK2104141593 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Speech by Hun Sen, vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party and chairman of the State of Cambodia Council of Ministers, at 18 April meeting to inaugurate a school in Angkor Chey District, Kampot Province—recorded]

[Text] My respects go to all venerable Buddhist monks, grandfathers, grandmothers, uncles, aunts, and all brothers and sisters, my esteemed and beloved compatriots; my respects also go to all UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] officials, especially to the UNTAC civilian police who are taking part in providing security for this meeting on the electoral campaign and also contributing to ensuring security for the inauguration of the Angkor Chey junior high school today. I thank all grandfathers and grandmothers, and those of you who have come from distant places just to see Hun Sen's face. You have already heard me over the radio and seen me on the television or in my pictures. Nonetheless, despite your advanced ages, you have painstakingly made long trips to see me with your own eyes. This gives me encouragement, and I will never forget this for my whole life. I thank you for giving me love and trust.

On this occasion, I would like to convey greetings and Buddhist blessings from Mr. Heng Samrin, Mr. Chea Sim, and other leaders of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the State of Cambodia [SOC] government to all venerable Buddhist monks and compatriots. May the new year, the year of the rooster, Buddhist era 2537, shower upon you all the best things and give you longevity, social prestige, happiness, strength, and enlightenment. [applause]

Venerable Buddhist monks, dear compatriots: On this occasion, I would also like to transmit the warm congratulations and energetic praise of the CPP and SOC government to all compatriots throughout Kampot Province and particularly in Angkor Chey District for making tireless efforts that have greatly contributed to the improvement of the living conditions of each compatriot, of each family, in each village, and within the boundary of Kampot Province, transforming a land of aridity and desolation into a land of life and development. I take this opportunity to thank all Buddhist monks for fulfilling over the past 14 years the formidable mission of indoctrinating the Buddhist faithful and compatriots and guiding them along correct ethical paths. This has contributed to the efforts of the party and government to bring about equality and social justice to the national community and to do away with all kinds of violent and dishonest acts. In my capacity as a party and government leader, I would like to thank the Buddhist community for making immense contributions to the secular world.

Today I feel extremely happy. Although I have not visited this place for the past many years, today I have made a shortcut from Takeo city traveling through Treang District via Prambei Mum commune. While proceeding on the road just now I was assailed by so many different feelings. But I was delighted, first of all, to note that all along the road no accidents had occurred to substantiate the UNTAC spokesman's assertion that the Khmer Rouge have been making preparations for attacks in Takeo and Kampot Provinces. I personally come here to prove to UNTAC that it should not make such a mistake again, for the Khmer Rouge attempts are not just for this day alone. Their attempts have been going on for over 14 years now in order to wrest back power. And the Khmer Rouge have never favored anyone, let alone ethnic Vietnamese. Even ethnic

Khmers and foreign nationals—namely UNTAC members—have also been killed by the Khmer Rouge. Therefore, we need not be alarmed and worried by the Khmer Rouge threats to attack this or that place in order to undermine the elections.

I would like to send a message to UNTAC, the UNTAC spokesman, and the UNTAC chief: You should not be alarmed at this situation. This is because the compatriots should realize that Hun Sen will always remain in Cambodia and stay with the Cambodian people. Whatever happens, our compatriots can be sure that Hun Sen, along with other leaders, will always stand by the Cambodian people, from the most trying times to the present when we are experiencing all kinds of development.

That is my impression. My second impression is that people regard the remotest areas on the border between Takeo and Kampot as almost unreachable. But in the trip I made when I crossed over from Takeo to Kampot this morning, I also examined the living conditions of the people. I did not stop over but through my observation I saw that everybody has a home. Even if the house is not superb, nobody is so destitute as to be forced to sleep on the roadside. On the contrary, I had the impression that there are now more tile-roofed houses than in the past and a number of houses, although they are located in the middle of a forest, have television antennas atop the roofs. At the same time, my trip this morning reminded me of my late grandfather and other elderly grandfathers and grandmothers. Why did it make me miss my grandfather? Because I saw so many Sangke [a kind of tree whose dried leaves can be used to make cigarettes] trees along the road. When I was a boy I loved to pick the Sangke leaves for my grandfather and other old men to roll into their cigarettes, and I missed the grandmothers whom I used to give betel leaves to chew when I saw betel trees in the yards of our people's homes. I was deeply moved to see that everything has been revived.

Angkor Chey now is no longer an Angkor Chey of hunger; it is an Angkor Chey where the people are watching and listening to videotapes, stereos, and television. Therefore, all of this is an achievement of the compatriots over the past 14 years during which you have made immense contributions to the efforts of the CPP and the SOC Government on the one hand, to prevent the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime and, on the other, to turn Angkor Chey into a land of admirable development. [applause]

Venerable Buddhist monks, beloved compatriots: Let us look at the transition period that we have endured over the past 14 years. This is a period that we must examine and analyze in order to make an assessment as to whether we have the potential to advance.

The electoral campaign has been going on for almost two weeks now. Twenty parties have been busy campaigning for votes. Some of them have strictly followed the electoral law, honestly observing democratic rules. However, there are also some other parties that have breached the election law and based on what I have seen over the past two weeks, I can emphasize that the parties that have violated the election law and democracy and have resorted to the tactics of intimidating the people could rally only 15, 20, 30, or 50 persons each time they held a meeting. On the contrary, today, according to the projection given me back in Phnom Penh by the provincial authorities, there should be a turnout of only around 10,000 persons, for this is quite a remote region. But from what we can see now there are no less than 20,000 people attending this meeting.

This shows the sincere feelings and the great desire to see, to hear, and to know the opinions of the CPP in our electoral campaign. Some grandfathers and grandmothers have already heard me speak but have not yet seen me in person. Now, grandfathers and grandmothers, you are coming to attend this meeting and I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart.

The electoral campaign has been going on for nearly two weeks now. To date, only 30 days are left before the campaign is over. I will not forget to mention that I met with more than 50,000 compatriots in Vihear Suor, more than 40,000 in Kompong Cham city, more than 40,000 in Suong-Tbong Khmum, nearly 50,000 in Prey Veng city, nearly 50,000 in Takeo city, and a little more than 40,000 yesterday in Tram Kak District. And I am meeting with more than some 20,000 others today. However, my voice can be heard everywhere, reaching even those who do not attend. For this reason, some parties—and to be blunt, the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party especially—have prohibited their officials from listening to Hun Sen's statements and they have also intimidated our people against turning up their radios to listen to Hun Sen's statements. In my opinion, this is deplorable. The freedom to hear, to write, and to read should be widely promoted. Moreover, the freedom to engage in political campaigns, the freedom of expression, and the freedom of the press should be respected. They should not threaten others against listening to my statements.

Therefore, if they want to earn popularity they should clearly and unequivocally state what they will do for the Cambodian citizens, for the Cambodian nation. They should not use threats or intimidation even before they win the elections. The electoral campaign began almost two weeks ago. During the campaign many parties boasted that if they win they will bring about better things, that they will do better than Hun Sen. Some of them promised that if they win they will completely eliminate the Hun Sen regime and they even shouted: Down with the Hun Sen regime! They did not realize that in downing the Hun Sen regime millions of people may die and the school we have just inaugurated may become a jail. But, of course, they are free to do that. However, we also know that none of the 20 parties besides our CPP has saved the people. When the Cambodian people were on the brink of death, the leaders of a number of parties lived cosily abroad. None of them cared about the life or death of our compatriots.

A certain party leader 15 years ago said that he was too old when someone approached him in France and tried to recruit him to fight Pol Pot. He said he was too old and told the recruiter to go find someone else. However, now in 1993 he has said that he is still young, that he can still make it. When he was over 70 he said he was too old, but now that he is over 80 he has said he is still young. And he keeps joining his hands prayer-style in a perpetual gesture of paying respect. The children have wondered what he was asking for. Some explained that he was begging for pardon because when the polpotists were slaughtering the people, he did not come to their rescue. The old man was living abroad. Others said: The old man was begging for votes. Others said that he was begging for the Finance Ministry and the National Bank. There have been so many varied explanations. Let them make the explanations. I only want to stress that of the 20 parties, ours is the only party that saved the Cambodian people from death and the sole party that has done everything for national progress and development during the past more than 14 years.

As for a number of parties, not only have they failed to do anything for the people, but their leaders have also joined Pol Pot in undermining the peaceful lives of our people during all those 14 years. They have joined Pol Pot in torching schools and attacking trains, thus killing countless people. They have joined Pol Pot in burning bridges and destroying temples. And now they have the arrogance to go around boasting that if they win the elections they will do better. Of course, it is their right to publicize themselves. But what I ask is that these people not go around usurping the right of the SOC and CPP to inaugurate schools. This is because a certain party once claimed to be the builder of a monastery eating hall that was actually built by the CPP.

Yesterday I was worried sick when a party leader held a meeting attended by just about 50 people near a bridge that I built. I was worried that he might furtively cut a ribbon and claim to be the builder of that bridge himself. But, thank goodness, he did not dare. However, some people are shameless enough to do just that, as in the case of a bridge in Kompong Ampil of Peareang District which links Peareang with Khsach Kandal and which was built by General Sin Song and his wife together with several other generous persons. When we were breaking ground for the construction of the bridge, workers of a certain party went around boasting to the people that it was their party that had asked the United Nations to build that bridge. The truth is the United Nations has not done anything yet. This shows that they feel no shame at all to fool the people.

Why are they afraid to acknowledge that the CPP has built that bridge, this school, or that temple? They dare not acknowledge truth. It is all right with me if they do not acknowledge, but have pity for me, do not furtively attempt to usurp our achievements. Allow us who are the legitimate builders to inaugurate them. Is it right or not, venerable? Grandfathers and grandmothers, do you agree? The builders must be the ones to celebrate the temple or the eating hall. Allow the real builders to get some credit. Please, do not usurp our right. This much I beg of them. And there are many other achievements that we have not yet inaugurated.

I take this opportunity only to examine the whole situation. As I have already stressed, many parties have promised that if they win they will do better. But I would like to urge you, compatriots, to use your good judgment. Will what they said is going to be better really be better? This is because the upcoming election is not an ordinary election. It is not an election only to change district governors, provincial governors, ministers, the prime minister, or deputies. But this election, by its nature, will change the political system itself, for the Paris Accord has stipulated an election to choose a constituent assembly, and this constituent assembly will adopt a constitution. Consequently, if the CPP loses, the new constitution will surely include points that will lead toward an immediate change.

The compatriots already know what danger our nation and people face each time the political system is changed. Lon Nol used the coup d'etat of 18 March 1970 to replace His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk's Sangkum Reas Niyum [popular socialist party] regime with his Khmer Republic regime. What consequences were foisted upon our Cambodian people from this change of political system other than the outbreak of war throughout Cambodia, the killing and maiming of many people, and the destruction of countless achievements? We did not inherit anything good. This alone was the result of a change in the political system. Lon Nol appealed to our compatriots to support that coup d'etat, to support him in overthrowing HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk and he promised to bring about something better, but instead of getting something better we lived through a worse experience.

The Khmer Rouge used their military force to once again change the political system, replacing Lon Nol's Khmer Republic regime with Pol Pot's Democratic Kampuchea regime. As a result of this change of regimes, what did our people get? Other than the deaths of more than 3 million people, we did not receive anything else good. We lost so much. Countless repercussions were left behind for us to rectify. These were the results of the change of system. The Khmer Rouge also appealed to the people for help, promising that if they won over the Lon Nol regime they would do better. However, instead of doing better, they massacred more than 3 million people and destroyed virtually everything, as all of you know.

We have made efforts. It is the CPP that is the sole party that made great efforts and shared weal and woe, life and death with the people in order to end Pol Pot's political regime and set up a new regime, that is, the SOC regime under which we are living at present. This regime, although it is not perfect, is a regime we can live with. The compatriots have seen that not only has this regime given life back to the people, but it has also given the possibility to grow and develop to each family, each village, each commune, up to the whole national framework. The compatriots can see that by themselves.

I would like to add a little more—that there is not a country with the special characteristics of Cambodia. After liberation in 1979 I visited many countries. I am not going to flaunt my meetings with presidents, heads of state, and heads of government of dozens of countries in this electoral campaign like some party leaders who barely had a chance to shake hands with a few presidents and already have so prominently displayed their pictures in propaganda centers to brag that they met with this president or that prime minister.

In my life since 1979 I have rubbed shoulders with dozens of heads of state and heads of government. In raising this point, I only want to stress that all over the world there is not a country that has the pecularities of Cambodia, that was so radically destroyed like Cambodia. Even East European countries such as Poland which was heavily devastated during World War II suffered less severely than Cambodia. The Polish people lost so much during the war. Still, their losses were less than those in Cambodia where three-eighths of the population was decimated, that is, three out of every eight Cambodians were killed. There were a lot of killings in China but the number was relatively small compared to what happened in our country.

The wars everywhere—be it in Korea or anywhere else—did less damage than the ones in Cambodia where three out of every eight people perished. No other country in the world was destroyed as drastically as Cambodia. There were numerous overthrows and changes of regimes in the world through coups d'etat and military takeovers. Yet no other country was devastated to the same extent as Cambodia as a result of these changes of regimes. Cambodia was destroyed from top to bottom; all its socioeconomic structures were pulled down.

Allow me to inform you that there have also been changes of regimes in other countries. For example, there were military takeovers in some African countries and there were military coups in a certain neighbor of ours. But the leaders were only kicked out; the economic, social, and administrative structures were preserved. In some countries there was also serious fighting but after the fighting ended only the main leaders were eliminated while the civil administration at, say, district and provincial levels, was kept intact. Yes, there were changes of regimes in other countries, but nowhere else was there any attempt to do away with the monetary system. Governments were toppled but the people continued to use money. There might be new issues of paper money to replace the old notes but these old notes remained valuable so they can be traded for the new notes.

But in Cambodia, after the Pol Pot gang toppled Lon Nol, they completely eliminated the use of money. When our regime took over, not only did we not inherit the monetary structure but we did not inherit any money at all. We had to print money all over again. This has never happened anywhere in the world before. For centuries, man has used currency as legal tender. In the past, he used goods to barter for other goods. Later on, he created money in the form of gold or silver coins and then paper notes as a kind of goods with exchangeable value. The paper currency was used as a go-between for the barter between deer meat and fish, between a buffalo and a horsecart, for example.

In Cambodia, however, the Pol Pot regime destroyed everything. We had nothing left except our bare hands. Not only the state, but also the people had only their bare hands left. Do you still remember what we had in 1979 when the Pol Pot regime collapsed? And we must not forget that under Pol Pot our lands were collectivized into cooperatives along with our schools, our bowls, and our pots and pans. They were this bad. In some places they were kind enough to let us keep the kettles for boiling drinking water but in other places they were not as kind: We were not allowed even to keep the kettles because they were afraid we might use them to secretly boil stolen eggs or bananas. They sent their sentinels, their guerrillas to go around spying on people and to discover what they were doing whenever they prepared a fire.

Thus, after liberation we stormed the cooperatives and took our belongings back. We destroyed these cooperatives to allow the people to set up their family lives again. When they seized them from us, they took, say, five pots and one or two dozens plates along with dozens of spoons and two or three kettles. But when the items were distributed, some of us were given back plates without spoons while others received pots without covers. This was frustrating. When they confiscated our carts, they took everything, carts and draft animals included. But when they were returned to us, some of us got only the carts without the draft animals. Others got only the animals without the carts, and so on. Thus, what did we have? We had nothing. This means that we made our departure from zero, and some of us, some families started from even less than zero.

A number of families who were not transferred to other places were lucky. They managed to recover some of their belongings and could live in their old houses. But the majority of families were transferred from the west to the east, from the south to the north, from the cities to the countryside. Many of them owned virtually nothing. After liberation, they carried small sons or daughters at one end of the shoulder pole and their few belongings at the other end.

We reminisce about these things to remind ourselves that before reaching this point in our progress, it was not so long ago that we began the journey under such trying conditions. Those who do not know Pol Pot, such as some of those party leaders, can never tell how miserable we were. For this reason, the leaders of a few parties have befriended Pol Pot. They do not know under what difficult and tragic conditions we lived in the Pol Pot era. They do not know. It was only us who ate plain rice gruel, who were forced to work around the clock, and who lived under constant fear who can know how miserable we were. Our daughters were placed in young women's brigades. Our boys were sent to join young men's brigades. When they reached marital age, we could do nothing. The marriage was arranged according to the whims of the Khmer Rouge administration.

We have this saying: If you grow rice, weed the grass; if you marry off your daughter, look for a good family.

But during the time of the Khmer Rouge administration, they weres the parents. They arranged all the marriages as way they liked.

To tell you the truth, I was there myself. I was the 13th groom in an arranged mass marriage ceremony of 13 couples. I did not have a chance to consult any fortuneteller. But our married life has been quite successful. It has endured to the present and we have had six children together. [laughter]

Excuse me, concerning the number of people attending this rally it is more like over 40,000 than over 10,000. Some 30,000 have come from Angkor Chey Disitrict, 12,000 from Banteay Meas, and another 7,000 from Chhuk. The total should be something like 49,000 people. Perhaps I have blurred vision, but what I see is a lot of people here. It has to be many, much more than 10,000. The attendance was first projected at just a little more than 10,000, but today we exceeded the plan. Exceeding the plan here certainly is not the same thing as when Pol Pot said he exceeded the plan. [laughter]

So, I said that after we liberated ourselves from the Pol Pot regime, we had nothing left. Not only were we left with nothing of value, but we even inherited countless consequences that we had to deal with. What did the people get back from the cooperatives? Nothing much. They had to travel from one commune to another, from one district to another, on foot, carrying their children on their shoulders, dragging their bikes without tires or inner tubes. Is that correct, Grandmother? That is most correct. We were completely destitute.

Moreover, there were so many widows and orphans that it was our duty to feed. There was no other country with a surviving population of just over 5 million that had hundreds of thousands of orphans like Cambodia had. No country has more widows than Cambodia. Pol Pot did kill many women, but he killed mostly men. That was a great pain left behind to us. Allow me to inform you, venerable, a number of children did not even know their names. They did not know their parents, nor did they know where they were born. Most of them were between two and four years old. They survived the parents who were slaughtered by Pol Pot. Many were separated from their parents. Now, if they happen to meet their parents they would not recognize each other. This scar can never heal. Some parties have said we should forget the past. But how can we forget when millions were killed? Not only have they asked other people to forget the past, but these parties also dare not even raise their voices in condemnation of Pol Pot when the latter is engaged in a spree of massacing countless people. They have instead exhorted people to reconcile. And these are none other than the leader of the FUNCINPEC party and Mr. Son Sann.

Just as I stated in Takeo, how can we be reconciled, let me ask, when the Khmer Rouge are ready to kill me when I go to their zones, when the people go to their zones, or even when the champions of reconciliation themselves go to their zones? Though they are their friends, if these persons enter the Khmer Rouge zones they can be sure they will die. Even when UNTAC personnel have entered Khmer Rouge zones, I do not know how many of them have already been shot to death.

Reconciliation should be clearly discussed. We should clearly know what its principles are and how it can be achieved. The subject should not be treated lightly.

Many orphans even now still do not know what their real names are. We have many orphanages that we prefer to call rose centers. We call them rose centers because we want to avoid mentioning the term orphans to spare the children the feeling of self-pity. It is these rose centers that have given the children their names. This is why we have many nice names for them. But in reality these children do not even know who their fathers are or where they were born.

Many widows over the years have endured hardship to raise their children. They did not remarry because they want to raise their children and give them an education, and they have not forgotten their husbands. A number of widowers have refrained from taking new wives because they are afraid the stepmothers will abuse their children. All of this is misery. Nonetheless, I warmly admire many mothers who, despite being widows, have worked hard to raise their children. Many of them now have their children attending college. This is the result of the heroics of our Cambodian women who over the past more than 14 years have made so many great contributions. The burden of the dead fathers was picked up and carried on by their wives who are working hard to bring prosperity to the country.

So, after liberation we had to overcome countless consequences left behind by the Pol Pot regime, such as solving the problem of famine resulting from the Pol Pot rule. A famine in our country was our most severe threat in the 20th century. Of course, I am not referring to the situation in Somalia, Sudan, or Ethiopia in the past few months or just recently. But at the end of the 1970's and the beginning of the 1980's, no country was as hard-hit as Cambodia. We suffered so much from the consequences left behind by the Pol Pot regime. All social structures were leveled. There were no schools, no markets, no money, no monasteries. Families were separated and members had to trek long distances back to their hometowns. And we had to feed hundreds of thousands of orphans, while Pol Pot and his allies were all the time waging war against us.

Now the other parties are going around accusing us of recruiting soldiers. If we did not recruit, all of us would have been dead by now. Because of whom? It was because of these parties. Because they colluded with Pol Pot in attacking us, we had to recruit soldiers to fight back. Without fighting back, do you think we would have this school now? Without fighting back do you think we can sit here? Without fighting back do you think the venerable monks would be able to be ordained?

The Khmer Rouge have said: When you get a new pot, do not ignore the old one. When you get a nicely printed sarong, do not discard the black cotton cloth just yet, for when the Vietnamese leave, one grave will hold 100 bodies. This was their doctrine in the years 1980 through 1982. And they still believe in this.

They now have a modified doctrine which goes like this: When you get a new pot, do not ignore the old one. When you get a nicely printed sarong, do not discard the black cotton cloth just yet, for when UNTAC leaves, one grave will hold 100 bodies. This is what they are saying.

If the SOC and CPP did not block them, surely one grave would have contained 100 bodies again. Do not be misinformed, there is no country in the world that does not have soldiers. Even if these parties take power, they will have to recruit soldiers. Do not forget, however, that when we recruited soldiers, it was because we needed to fight their subversive acts. For no reason, these elements planted mines to blow up the railroad in Kampot. The people of Kampot know that well because the railroad goes through their backyards. If we did not protect the railroad, how many people would have been killed? If we had to defend it, then we had to have soldiers. Who forced us to do so? If the country was peaceful, maybe we would not need so many soldiers.

Who else was it if it was not the Khmer Rouge, FUNCINPEC, and Son Sann, who colluded with each other to launch attacks on trains that killed so many people? And I am not talking about other regions. This was what happened just in Kampot Province alone. Therefore if we called up 50,000 soldiers in order to protect 8-9 million people, that would not be considered aberrant. During the era of His Highness, an 18-month military service was enforced. And even the United States has military service. When current U.S. President Bill Clinton was campaigning he was accused of dodging his citizen's duty just because he did not serve in the Indochina war.

So, they have gone around accusing the SOC of recruiting soldiers. When they were at the border, why then did they recruit even refugees in the camps? For what purpose did they recruit these soldiers? Of course, for destroying schools, monasteries, bridges, and railroads. It was because they did that that in turn we had to recruit soldiers to prevent them from destroying our achievements. If we did not stand up, maybe we would have all been killed by Pol Pot by now.

Therefore, FUNCINPEC and Son Sann need not use such propaganda against us. It is they who are the virus, the seed of war. They recruited even those who had fled Cambodia and taken refuge in the camps to avoid the war, and sent them back to fight along with Pol Pot against their own nation. Now, they are accusing the SOC of recruiting soldiers. What irony!

Allow me to inform you that even countries without war need soldiers. Countries at war thus have even greater reason to have soldiers. Some countries at war declare a general mobilization and proclaim a state of emergency. What is the general mobilization law? It empowers the government to mobilize every citizen and all resources to support the war effort. However, the SOC and CPP have not declared even martial law. We have never placed the whole country or a part of it under a state of emergency. Neither have we invoked the general mobilization law. We have done only things that accord with the wishes of the people.

Even with the presence and protection of military forces, the Khmer Rouge have attacked Dang Tong, Chum Kiri, Chhuk, and Banteay Meas. Have they ever attacked Angkor Chey? [apparently addressing someone in the audience] And they have also attacked Kompong Trach. We have troops and also UNTAC here and they still are not afraid to attack. Will the leaders of those parties stop them? Will they convince Pol Pot not to attack the people? No. Both Son Sann and FUNCINPEC would like nothing better than to prod them to attack us even more. Whenever the Khmer Rouge steps up their attacks on the people, these leaders smile ever more blissfully because more people will die, and the more houses come under attacks the more money the SOC will have to spend in the form of aid, medicine, cloth, and rice donated to the victims. Thus they love to see these acts committed in many places. These parties are delighted whenever the Khmer Rouge attack the people.

Allow me therefore to inform you that over the past 14 years we started from scratch and we had to face a sabotage war waged by the Khmer Rouge and their allies. And in the meantime other countries imposed an economic embargo on us, denying us any aid. Some countries gave us aid to a certain extent and a number of international humanitarian organizations also assisted us. But most countries did not. They imposed what they called economic sanctions on Cambodia, or according to the title of a book by Mrs. Eva of the Oxfam organization, they were "Punishing the Poor."

So, they launched an economic siege to kill us. However, despite the fact that we only had our bare hands to work with, a war was launched against us, and we were sent reeling under the economic sanctions but no one could force us to our knees. Not only did we not keel over, but no one even managed to stop us from prospering. You all can see that when we meet today, and also recently when we celebrated our new year, how happy and joyful our compatriots are.

Let us close our eyes and reminisce about how conditions were over 14 years ago under the Pol Pot regime, when Pol Pot ordered us to attend meetings. If we reminisce a little we can see that when the Angka [Khmer Rouge administration] summoned us for a meeting, we all went against our will, each wearing only black shirts, black robes or black pants with a tattered scarf around the neck. Most of us wore a pair of car-tire rubber shoes and many came barefooted. Once we reached the meeting place, we sat down and listened to the Angka. The Angka had nothing but insults and scorns for us. The Angka claimed that its era was even more glorious than the Angkorian period. They kept cursing us, saying that the CIA, the KGB, the Vietnamese lackeys, and enemy moles should all be uprooted, weeded out. It attacked everything, from the petty bourgeois to the capitalists and feudalists.

When asked whether we had enough to eat, we invariably replied: Yes, we have enough. When asked whether the food was good, we always said: Yes, it is good. And our staple was just a rice gruel! However, if we did not answer that we had enough, that the food was good, we could be sure of being dragged away and clubbed to death. And they set as targets a yield of three, five, or eight metric tons per hectare. They only cared about their great and marvelous leaps and bounds.

And what working conditions did we have to endure at that time? It was not yet light at dawn when we were driven out to work in the fields. At 1100 we had to return for lunch and right after lunch we again left for work. At night we had to engage in socialist labor. What is socialist labor, do you remember? Allow me to recall it a little so that we will not forget. We should never forget that and our children and grandchildren should not forget that either. By socialist labor they meant to force us to produce fertilizer, the most basic fertilizer. You should know what the most basic fertilizer is. They gave us half a small tin can of food to eat per meal and twice that for an entire two-meal day and they ordered us to excrete one kg of fertilizer. How could that be possible? We put in only a can or barely 200 grams of food and they wanted us to excrete one kg! How could that be possible? To make matters worse for us, most of the pigs at that time were starving. We thus had to fight with the pigs over our own excretion. The little we managed to retrieve was then mixed with anthill dirt and acacia leaves to make manure as part of our socialist labor.

Now, compatriots remember when we were anxiously waiting for the bell to ring announcing lunch time? We did not even have the right to cut the sugarcane we planted ourselves in front of our own living quarters for our children to suck on in the long wait for the rice gruel time. We did not have any right to eat the bananas that we grew. Everybody was anxiously waiting for meal time. It was torture when the sun was hidden behind the thick clouds. Each strained his ears waiting for the bell to toll. Now we do not need to do that again. But if we close our eyes we might believe that we are meeting here clad in black, tattered clothes. Then, when we reopen our eyes and look around we will see that all of us are dressed up in nice skirts, nice shirts, wearing nice shoes, some wearing nice wristwatches, rings, and earrings, others showing faces nicely made up with powder and lipstick. You, the youths, I knew all your tricks yesterday. You just washed your best clothes after celebrating the new year and, having no iron, you placed them under your sleeping mats to give them a semblance of being ironed. I know that trick. You had some wrinkles left on them. I used to do the same thing when I was young. [chuckle] Of course, you boys need to look presentable.

As for you, girls, this morning you woke up and got out of bed quite early, no later than 0400 I figure, because it usually takes you quite some time to get dressed up and made up. After leaving this meeting, maybe a few steps from here, you will have to look at yourselves in the mirrors and touch up again before continuing on your way. Under Pol Pot, such behavior called for immediate execution. No one would be spared. Under Pol Pot you could not come to such a meeting bringing along umbrellas and other niceties. Pol Pot would have killed every one of you. This is the truth. Just when they got wind that we had used scented soap they would accused us of having an American aroma, of having a revisionist odor.

Now, you, the young ones, have all the freedom to do whatever you like. If it's your fancy to paint yourselves with a touch of the finest powder each time or to soak yourselves in gallons of perfume everyday, go ahead, do it. No one forbids you. We are living in the video and hi-tech era. It is wrong to force the people to wear black clothes and to make them wear the same short haircut, be it a man or a woman. That is not right.

So, just looking all around ourselves and [words indistinct]. In the Pol Pot time, wearing watches was a status symbol of the officials. You had to be at a certain rank in the Angka before you had the right to wear a wristwatch. Now, many high school students among you can wear watches on either wrist. This is impressive. Under Pol Pot, boys were not only not allowed to wear watches but could not even go to any high school.

So, this is just a little of the past that I want to bring up for all of you to see. Now, Venerable, grandfathers, and grandmothers, can we make merit according to our tradition? Of course, we can, be it according to Buddhism, Islam, or any other religion. We can now celebrate all our traditional festivals, be it food offering, robe-presenting, fund-raising, eye-opening, and all other ceremonies. We are free to observe all the occasions. And you, the young people, now can go to elementary and high schools and, if you do well in class, you can go on to college. In the Pol Pot time, you were employed to guard cattle and pick up cow dung. The young children were ordered to follow the cows and collect their dung in baskets. Therefore, what we have and how we are now is the progress that we must recognize all around us. We no longer need to hear the bell toll before we can have lunch. Leaving this place, we can eat whatever we like, buying barbecued sticky rice or bananas on sale along the road or going home and cooking a meal. We are free to do whatever we like.

Now, other parties also claim they will do the same things. They said that if they win, they will bring back Buddhism, build schools, and reintroduce money. They need not promise that at all, for we have already achieved it over the past 14 years.

They have accused the Heng Samrin-Chea Sim-Hun Sen regime of being Communist. When we asked them what is Communism, they said: No religions, no money, no markets, no schools...What are we Cambodians doing presently? Are there schools, markets? We have brought back money when there was no money. It is these parties which have been trying to undermine the currency. They have not yet won and they already [words indistinct]. We have brought back monks and temples when there were no monks or temples. For this reason, when I was called a temple boy, I said it is a great honor to be a temple boy. It is not lowly at all. It is because Hun Sen is a temple boy, he did not run away from the monasteries. Others have destroyed the monasteries, but Hun Sen never deserted the monasteries. He is unlike someone who has run away. Hun Sen worked on from the time there were no temples or monks until we have temples and monks now. He is much better than the other parties.

Some believe that the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party [BLDP] is more faithful. But this party has offered layman's sarongs to the monks. How ridiculous. When I visited a monk in Kang Meas he told me Son Sann's BLDP had given him 12 batik sarongs of the Cham or Indonesians. And people believe this to be a party of the Buddhist faithful.

So, the other parties have accusedus of being barbarian and unbelieving while in reality we have promoted religions by building temples and ordaining monks. They have accused us of being communist. When I asked what is communism? They said it has nothing, no religion, no money, no schools, no markets. Then, what are we Cambodians doing now?

They have claimed that if they win they will liberalize everything. We asked them what they mean. They said: To liberalize is to go private, to have markets, to introduce money, to have schools and religions. We retorted: What are the Cambodians doing now? When there was no religions, we brought back religion; when there was no money, we reintroduced money; when there were no markets, we reopened the markets; when there were no schools, we built schools.

Now, venerable ones, we have liberalized even too much. It seems that underground games of numbers, baccarats, dice, and other gambling establishments have been liberalized too. We have liberalized to the point of giving the government a big headache. Recently, we were told by some senior citizens that we have gone too far in liberalizing things. So, how much more liberal do they want it to be? I admit that I am not competent in that kind of liberalization. I am not competent in liberalization at all if I have to knock down schools and brick houses just to get the iron scraps for making nails and if I have to march off for execution long strings of people as Pol Pot did.

Talking of liberalization, when I went abroad somebody asked me if I could do so the people have movies again as in the past. I told him not to worry. The people are watching not just movies but videos now.

These parties are no match for the Phnom Penh faction. Having nothing else better to do, they continue to badmouth, to insult us in their campaign.

I want to remind you of this: We have this much now. Should we let everything slip away?

I would like to stress this to you: Whatever we have in our hands, we should keep it. If it wins, the CPP guarantees, first, that the Pol Pot regime will not come back. Therefore, the compatriots who vote for the CPP will vote for themselves because they contribute to the survival of the nation, and in the future we will continue to survive through the prevention of Pol Pot's return. The CPP guarantees that no one will confiscate properties, land, houses, cattle, carts, and other valuables. Therefore, voting for the CPP is voting for oneselves [words indistinct]. So, looking at the past dozen years of hardship during which we worked on from scratch until we have all of this now, I would like to ask you whether or not we are capable of carrying on the work? We certainly are. If we can build everything from virtually nothing, we surely can advance farther. In the past we did not have tile-roofed houses in this area. Now we have many. In the past we traveled on foot barefooted. Now we have carts driven by horses, oxen, or buffaloes and now we have bikes. We surely have the possibility for owning motorcycles in the future. In the past we did not have junior high schools in many places where now we have them. And we are striving to upgrade them into high schools in the future. We surely have the ability to do so.

I would like to stress again that if you vote for the CPP, this party will guarantee everything. Of course, this party will not be able to do anything without the support of the compatriots. In the past 14 years, without your support, this party would not have been able to carry out its duty to the present. A government, a party without the support of, say, just 40 percent of the people will not be able to do anything at all. However, a certain party has boasted that it will win, that it will win 100 percent of the votes even. If that is true, would Hun Sen have to vote for it too? It has said that it will win and that the Phnom Penh regime is collapsing. Allow me to make this clear. I am rallying an audience of more than 40,000 people from an expected audience of 10,000 [numbers as heard] while the leader of that party manages to call up at best 40 listeners. Is that not a big difference? If the people do not support Hun Sen and the CPP, they surely are not going to come here and listen. No one forces them. Many grandfathers come here to see me. They come here not just to get the gifts but to see Hun Sen's face, to listen to the CPP speech.

It is ridiculous to claim that it would get 100 percent votes, for to get all the votes Hun Sen and his wife would have to vote for him as well. And Hun Sen's wife surely is not going to cast her ballot for anyone else but Hun Sen, her husband.

So, the leader of that party has been going around bragging that he will win. Let him brag. But as far as we are concerned, we—the CPP—are not vain. It should be understood that a ruling party that loses just 40 percent of the support will not be able to do anything at all. Coming here, no one would turn up to listen to me. Yesterday in Tram Kak—a locality of 60,000 people—more than 50,000 turned up. But, if we lose the support, no one would turn up to listen. Without support, the government, the party cannot even organize meetings.

So, they have been going around bragging. Naturally, one always praises the quality of one's own horse. Whether that horse will beat other horses or not it is another matter altogether. We will have to wait and see about this.

Allow me to talk a little about this. Last night, the Khmer Rouge issued a statement and the Voice of America broadcast it this morning. Maybe, a number of our compatriots did not hear it because they were busy listening to nice songs from Phnom Penh. In his statement Pol Pot condemned the UNTAC-organized election in Cambodia. He said that the coming election is an international conspiracy to put the Phnom Penh puppet regime back in power. He said in the past we were installed by Vietnam and now we are going to be installed by the United Nations. This is because he knew that the Phnom Penh faction will win.

A number of parties have claimed that they will win. But the Khmer Rouge talked to his highness in Beijing. Let me reveal a secret. His highness met Khieu Samphan and asked his opinion: Excellency, who will win? Can you tell who will win? FUNCINPEC boasts that it will win.

Khieu Samphan said: No, the Yuon [Vietnamese] will win. The Heng Samrin-Hun Sen-Chea Sim Yuon will win.

This was told by his highness and his royal consort.

When the Khmer Rouge made their speeches in Phnom Penh during two meetings, they said that the elections will finally lead to the creation of a rubber-stamp National Assembly full of puppets and the formation of a puppet government. Last night, they declared to the world that the upcoming election is an international conspiracy to prop up and maintain the puppet regime.

So, they realize that they cannot win and they return to the bush. That is their business. But I beg their friends and sympathizers not to follow them into the bush. Stay where they are and join the vote. The Phnom Penh faction never has any retaliatory policy toward them. It is not us, but them who have this kind of revanchist policy. How? For example, in Tram Kak they said that if they lose, give them some rice to eat; but if they win, they will eat our gallbladder in return. They said if they win, no Hun Sen supporter will have time to flee.

There was a lawyer who made a call to me from America. He did not know me. He said he had an argument with a FUNCINPEC member at his office. And this was taped as it is the practice in most lawyer's offices. The FUNCINPEC member talked about two things. First, he said that Hun Sen was poisoned and in a coma. Second, he said that if his party wins, Hun Sen will not be allowed to take a plane and run away. The lawyer told him: You try to do that. If you do anything to Hun Sen, I will call up lawyers from various countries and come to Cambodia to defend him. What wrong has Hun Sen done, the lawyer asked. At least he helped liberate your parents and relatives. That is what he said. My crime is that I attacked Pol Pot in order to liberate the people and have been blocking Pol Pot from returning so the people can live again. My crime is that I have built schools, temples, bridges, and roads; I have led the people in providing education for the children; I have made it possible for them to have umbrellas, motorcycles, bikes, horsecarts, and oxcarts, to eat in their own houses and to have money and marketplaces. That is my crime. If I have to be punished for that, all right punish me. I have never killed anyone.

My crime is only this: I have attacked Pol Pot. I cannot overlook this danger, for Pol Pot has refused to join the election and his men are hiding at Voar and other mountains. They frequently come down and fire at the people. We cannot overlook that. Moreover, we must neither be confounded nor afraid. Pol Pot has conducted activities since the time his highness was in power. Now that they have refused to join the election, they have returned their status back to being mere bandits as they were in the pre-1970 period. So, the other parties must clearly grasp that. The Phnom Penh faction has never pursued any revanchist policy. As a matter of fact, when we won in 1979 we allowed even Pol Pot's own younger brothers to stay and work with us. Khieu Samphan's own younger brother has also stayed with us. A number of the Royal Family members also stayed with us. We have never maltreated anyone. None of the awakened Khmer Rouge who have returned to the national fold has been killed. We have welcomed them by creating favorable conditions for them to live peacefully with their reunited families. We have never killed anyone who returned to the people. And we have never killed any prisoners of war. After the signing of the Paris accord, we released all the prisoners of war. On the contrary, the other side—be it the Khmer Rouge, FUNCINPEC, or Son Sann—has not yet handed to us even a single prisoner of war over the past nearly two years. When we captured their men we put them in jail and on their release they were found to be quite chubby because they received salaries as prisoners. During the war, when I took a prisoner, he was detained as a prisoner of war. But when the other side took our men as prisoners, they did not detain them but they killed them.

So, over the past years, the SOC and the CPP have never implemented any revanchist policy. But, although they have not yet won, the other parties have already made threats to uproot us if they win. That is a revanchist policy. If we keep practicing such a retaliatory policy, no Cambodians will be left. The other parties should instruct their rank-and-file as well as the leaders to behave themselves, to uphold high morals, and to have political maturity.

You, on the other hand, should not harbor resentment against us forever. As a matter of fact, if we want to hurt you, you cannot escape. You have not yet won and you are already making threats.

Imagine if the Phnom Penh faction does the same to you: We have 100,000 soldiers, nearly 5,000 policemen, and countless militiamen and all the arms surrendered to UNTAC are under the control of SOC. With all of that, do you think the CPP would fail to win? You are no match. You would not be permitted to open offices in Angkor Chey. You would be forced to flee for dear life. But we do not do that. We are not that low. We are in control of more than 90 percent of the territory and of the population. We accepted the accord to let you come out of the jungles, from the border, and from abroad. [passage indistinct] A party has already been going around extorting money from some restaurants and crocodile farms, threatening that if it wins they will pull their businesses down unless it gets cooperation from them now. No one should vote for such a party. We have a saying: You cannot teach a mean old man to be good just as you cannot straighten up an old bent ratan.

They are mean, there is no question about that. I would like to inform the people all over the country that I am not responsible for overthrowing the monarchy. Do not forget that the throne has been sealed off since 1970. I have nothing to do with that. The monarchy was replaced by the Khmer Republic regime in 1970. The Khmer Republic was replaced by Democratic Kampuchea in 1975 which itself was replaced by the SOC in 1979. Therefore, the monarchy is dead. His highness himself said on 16 November 1991 during a mass meeting in front of the Chanchhaya pavilion that he would never again become a king. He would never wear the crown again because it was so heavy. Let the dancers wear crowns, he said. If his highness himself does not want to be king, then who wants to be?

That is what I want to tell you about. The other side said: Hun Sen is not a monarchist Khmer; how come he wants to be king?

I never said I want to be king. I do not want to be king but I want to be prime minister and I am prime minister. The position of prime minister is more than sufficient for me. And I am not [words indistinct]. But it seems to fit me very well all this time. Most compatriots keep admiring me, saying that Hun Sen can do it; he is smart. Anyway, this position seems to fit me well and I perform my function quite successfully all this time. This is why many of you, grandfathers and grandmothers, want to see Hun Sen's face today.

So, I do not want to be king at all, not even for a single day. Do not not go around claiming that Hun Sen wants to be king. Let me inform the compatriots that if this election is merely a process of changing ministers, the prime ministers, deputies, and district or provincial governors, I will not run at all, for I am so tired. Being a prime minister greatly saps your energy because you have to think constantly. The work of a prime minister under normal circumstances is tolerable. Moreover, there is a big difference between the real-life prime minister and the movie or opera prime minister. This is because each of my decisions is related to the life or death of the Cambodian people as a whole. For this reason, I have to thoroughly research, study, and discuss each problem before making a decision. Sometimes, I do not even have time to sleep or to see my children. I retire at 0100 or 0200. When I wake up all the children are gone for their classes. When I return home [for the mid-day siesta] the children go to their rooms and I to mine. In the evening the children have their homework and I have my work to finish and before I can finish my work the children are asleep. So, I rarely see my children.

Therefore, if this election is only a mere process of changing the prime minister, deputies, ministers, and district or provincial governors, I will not run. Of course, I am not going to desert the CPP because this party gave me back my life and made it possible for me to serve the people. I am not going to desert it. But I am not going to run for election just to become deputy, prime minister, or minister. I need a rest. I would rather become an adviser and write newspaper articles or a book.

However, the situation is not like that. This election is vital. If the CPP loses, there will be a change of the political regime. I, together with Mr. Heng Samrin and Mr. Chea Sim, we are like the helmsman sailing a ship through a storm or strong current. If we bail out, that ship might go in the wrong direction or capsize. The victim then will be the nation. For this reason, all of us, young and old alike, we will stay and forge ahead.

Someone might say: Mr. Hun Sen, you have been prime minister for the past eight years. It should be long enough. Coupled with the time you were deputy prime minister, you have been in power for more than 14 years now. Have pity. Let others have a chance.

Maybe he is right in saying that. But let me tell him that I do not want it at all. He can come and take it away from me [words indistinct]. However, although I have been prime minister for eight years, no one was younger than I in the whole world. I am the youngest prime minister in the world. When I was minister, I was also the world's youngest. I was a minister at 27. When I was 28 and 29 years old I was deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs. When I was only 32 or 33 years old I was prime minister. No one was younger. And in Cambodia since 1945 there has been no prime minister who stayed in this position longer than I. I have been in this position for the past eight years.

Of course, it is time for me to retire. The problem, however, is that if I pull out, will there be anyone capable of [words indistinct]? This is obvious. Now I have just passed my 42d birthday by a few days. But there is a certain person who is already 83 years old and still wants to be the prime minister. All right, the 42-year-old man might already be an old face but how about an 83-year-old man? Several candidates are 75 or 76 years old but the trembling 83-year-old man who has also been begging for control of the National Bank and the Finance Ministry...

Therefore, in politics there are no age limits. He can do it so long as he can do it. Therefore, do not say this: Hun Sen, you have been too long in this position. Get out. Give someone else a chance.

Or: Hun Sen, you are too old. Give me a break.

Do not forget, I am only 42 years old.

Or: Hun Sen, you are too young, too green. Get lost.

Do not forget that I have been prime minister since I was 33.

Therefore, being young or old does not matter. Just let the people decide democratically. The voters should decide. Someone had said: Do not bother to hold the election. Just share the power among us.

How ridiculous. The election is so near and he asks us to share the power! We should let the people vote. Take the votes given by the voters and decide the sharing on the number of votes earned. This is because the people are the ones who decide.

This is all I want to say. However, let me add a little more. The CPP guarantees. As I said, if the CPP wins, Pol Pot cannot return. Even if he may cause trouble in some places, he will never be able to bring back the system of communal kitches and collective labor. He will never be able to slaughter the people en masse, in strings, or by a hundred per grave again. He may attack and cause some damage here and there. He will never be allowed to confiscate people's property, houses, carts, motorcycles, watches, and dollars again. On the existing foundation, we can advance farther because we have been able to arrive at this from scratch over the past years. Look, you boys standing over there all have wristwatches. For a few years you have acquired and saved money to buy these watches. In the next few years, you are not going to use your money on watches because your present watches will last for at least another 10 years, right? Therefore, you are going to acquire and save money to buy rings, necklaces, and especially to pay for a wife, right? Do not deny. I guess right. The situation is just like that. We have the ability to advance. However, if the CPP loses, let me tell you, compatriots, I cannot help you. I can help you only if we win. If we lose, I cannot help. They will be looking for me before anyone else.

[words indistinct] they have said that if they lose, give them some rice to eat but if they win...And actually they are coming. They have said that if they win they will eat our gallbladder, and Hun Sen's first. Thus Hun Sen cannot help you.

It is for this reason that I have repeatedly asserted that just hearing a distant thunder you should not rush in to empty the water jar, for it is not yet certain that there will be rain. During Lon Nol's time, he promised to bring good things but only bad things befell our people. During Pol Pot's time, he promised to bring good things but only the worst things happened. Now, we have ended the life of their political regimes and have built all these achievements. They are not excessively great but you should not feel that it is unbearable to watch only television, to ride only second-hand motorcycles, to go to junior high and high schools. What can we do if the Hun Sen regime is said to be inferior. However, mind you, their promises may be like that thunder. It sounds better, but you risk losing whatever you already have.

In the past, there were fewer bikes, fewer motorcycles, fewer cars, fewer tile-roofed houses, and fewer wristwatches than now. If you are not careful, they will seize all of that again. Everyone will have to run for his life. Nevertheless, I still have confidence that the compatriots will not throw away the water you already have just because you hear the rumbling thunder. What we already have in our hands is worth much more than empty promises.

Allow me to ask you this: Are you going to vote for the CPP? [applause] Thank you. Please, spread my words to all those who have not heard me here. And now you should learn how to cross the ballots. You should see the spot for the party of Mr. Heng Samrin if you know him, of Mr. Chea Sim if you know Mr. Chea Sim, and of Hun Sen if you know Hun Sen. Cross the ballots at the correct spot. Now there is a tactic that FUNCINPEC was using in Takeo. They told the voters that if they hate FUNCINPEC then cross the FUNCINPEC out on the ballots. This is a shameless deception. I denounced them in Takeo once already. Prince Chakkrapong also pointed it out. Do not forget that if you cross a party out, that party is supposed to be chosen.

So they said that if anyone hates FUNCINPEC he should cross FUNCINPEC out. What big liars these people are. Where have they learned to be so deceitful? They promised voters dollars, then cloth, then tile-roofed houses, then motorcycles, then cars, then planes, and finally the stupas which is the equivalent of saying good-bye.

For heaven's sake, if you want to play politics, please stop lying because when you lie to us Cambodians it is hard for you to get off easily. If you want the people to come to your meetings, do not lie to them that you are going to distribute gifts. Moreover, tell them exactly who is going to speak. Do not lie to them that his highness is coming. Recently at one place they lied to the people that his highness was coming [passage indistinct] if you lie the people will catch you lying.

Therefore, I hope that the people are going to vote for me and I take this opportunity to thank all venerable Buddhist monks and compatriots for supporting the CPP and the SOC Government during the past 14 years. Your support has enabled the CPP, the SOC Government, and me to accomplish our duty for the nation and bring about development as we can see it now. I hope that in the coming election, the compatriots will vote for me so that I can carry on the work and make even greater achievements. This is because we are capable of doing better, not worse. We will end the war, and aid will arrive. We can do better. [words indistinct] we will bring much better things not so-so things.

Let me add just a little more. Concerning the fertilizer charge, I have already announced that the fertilizer charge is scrapped. But I have some further clarification to make. This fertilizer charge is scrapped only for the people. The people's debts to the state incurred from fertilizer puchases are waived. That is one thing. But if the people owe the Chinese traders, they must pay the debts back to the Chinese traders. I am not paying them on your behalf. [chuckle] This pledge is good only between the people and the state. However, those who have already paid their debts should consider themselves free.

And I have two more points to stress: The repayment by the people that has already reached the commune, district, or provincial coffers should be forwarded to the central treasury. The provinces or districts or communes are not authorized to keep that money at all. That money should go to the central coffer.

Besides, those who still owe the fertilizer charge and have joined other parties are not yet free. There is a person in Takeo who falls in this category. This man now becomes the leader of a party that I do not want to name. The local agriculture service has already submitted a lawsuit to the tribunal. He sold the fertilizer, took the money, and even talked a woman into running away with him. He is now a party leader. He still owes the state for the fertilizer charge. And there is also the case of a candidate of a party in Kompong Cham. He also is indebted to the state. Our men are after him to get the money back.

The people have already given them money for the fertilizer but they did not hand it over to the state. They have embezzled that money. That person in Takeo is now conducting a campaign. He is sure to be looking for trouble. We have asked the prosecutor to subpoena him to appear in court so we can get the money back. He is not a free man yet.

The agricultural authorities at all levels that have already received money from the people must therefore hand over that money to the state. The deadline was set only yesterday on 17 April. On that day all fertilizer dues between the state and the people were nullified. The people do not have to pay. That was a gift for the new year. However, if the people owe the Chinese traders, they must pay the Chinese traders. I am not involved at all. It is the Chinese traders' business. [chuckle] If they owe it to the state, then the state waives it. However, just forget about the debt that you have paid back to the state months ago. Do not try to get it back. That is history. The deadline is for only now.

Concerning the land taxes, the state is not collecting them in 1993. And if the CPP wins, we will suspend them for the next 15 years. In the world only Cambodia does not collect land taxes. We did not collect in the 1979-84 period. We collected a semblance of taxes from 1984 to 1988 called patriotic contributions because we did not have a land tax law yet. Since 1988 we have not collected these taxes at all. And if the CPP wins, we will suspend these taxes for another 15 years. However, I do not promise anything if other parties win. Then, I will not be able to protect you anymore.

As a matter of fact, the land tax suspension is like an aid to the people. Let us suppose, you over there, how much land do you own? One hectare? Let us see, in the past, for one hectare of land you had to pay one chi [3.75 grams] of gold in taxes. But now the state does not take it. This means you have earned one chi of gold a year. The lifting of taxes by the state is tantamount to putting money back in the people's pocket. Outwardly, it is like the state has not done anything. But in fact, in not collecting land taxes the state is doing the people a big favor. From 1979 to 1983 and from 1988 to 1993, let us say for 10 years, anyone who owns one hectare of land has already gained one damloeng [37.5 grams] of gold. If the CPP wins, for 15 years—or maybe less because that will depend on the land tax law that we are going to make—the people will save a lot in land taxes and the state will sacrifice a lot so that the farmers will benefit directly.

Thus, I thank all of you again for your support. I thank the grandfathers and grandmothers who just now have pledged to give their votes to me, the CPP, Mr. Heng Samrin, and Mr. Chea Sim. In return, I pledge to do everything possible for the development of the nation, religion, and each family.

In conclusion, I beg your pardon if I have said anything that might offend you. Once again I wish you, venerable ones and compatriots, all the best and may you enjoy the five Buddhist blessings, that is, longevity, social prestige, happiness, strength, and enlightenment. Thank you. [applause] Long live the CPP! [applause]

Indonesia

Thai Prime Minister Begins Jakarta Visit

Attends Suharto-Hosted Banquet

BK2604161493 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Excerpt] President Suharto says we should continue to strive to create a peaceful, free, and neutral ASEAN which has become the aspiration of Southeast Asian nations. President Suharto made the remarks during a dinner banquet he and Mrs. Suharto hosted in honor of Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai at the State Palace in Jakarta tonight. He said stability and peace in ASEAN are indispensable for the success of development programs individually as well as collectively. The president said Indonesia adheres to the principles of self-reliance in implementing its development programs. However, Indonesia is aware of its limitations and consequently needs to cooperate with other nations in accelerating its development process.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said in his reply speech that Indonesia has a major role to play in achieving peace and stability in ASEAN in general and in Cambodia in particular. He said Indonesia's role as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement is equally of great significance for developing nations.

According to Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, relations in the fields of trade and investment hold great opportunities and huge potential. Thus, the Thai prime minister has instructed his staff to hold consultations with the Indonesian side to realize the goal of this cooperation. According to Chuan Likphai, the formation of the ASEAN Free Trade Area, AFTA, will test the extent of benefit that a combined market of 320 million people will have for ASEAN. [passage omitted]

Chuan: Thailand To Apply for NAM

BK2704015193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Apr 93 p 3

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai announced in Jakarta yesterday that Thailand will apply for membership in the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr Chuan made the announcement during a speech he made at a dinner hosted in his honour by President Suharto of Indonesia on the first day of a three-day visit to the country, his first as Thailand's prime minister.

He was impressed by President Suharto's endeavour to make the world realise the meaning and importance of cooperation among developing countries, said Mr Chuan.

"The Non-Aligned Summit last year in Jakarta was the forum for developing countries to consult and determine their role without outside interference.

"I fully endorse your sentiment that we have to synergize the cooperation among the developing countries.

"We should turn similarities into strength and differences into the reminder that we have to further strengthen cooperation on the basis of equality and equity.

"In this regard, I would like to announce the determination of the Government of Thailand to apply for membership of the Non-Aligned Movement in order to participate in the realisation of the objectives and aspirations of the developing countries, especially in the world without the Cold War," Prime Minister Chuan said.

Mr Chuan said he fully endorses the concept of setting up growth areas.

He said he agrees with the Malaysia prime minister's proposal to explore the possibility of setting up a "Northern Growth Triangle" comprising Sumatra, Northern Malaysia and Southern Thailand. Mr Chuan said he expected support from President Suharto.

"Furthermore, I expect that the concept of setting up the cooperation quadrangle comprising Thailand, China, Laos and Myanmar [Burma] as well as the concept of cooperation among the countries of the Mekong River Basin comprising Thailand China, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam could synergize with the growth areas in ASEAN," Mr Chuan said.

Touching on the Cambodian problem, Mr Chuan said although ASEAN countries have managed to go smoothly with their development due to the atmosphere of peace and stability Cambodia does not have the same experience.

"We must continue to call for the international community to en6ure the national reconciliation and reconstruction in Cambodia, since any political progress must go hand in hand with economic survival," Prime Minister Chuan said.

President Suharto, in his speech, said ASEAN has made a considerable contribution to the promotion of solidarity and progress of its member states.

"We must still continue to strive for the creation of a peaceful, independent and neutral ASEAN as our ardent aspirations and ideals," he said.

Mr Chuan arrived in Jakarta yesterday for a three-day visit.

On his arrival, Mr Chuan was greeted by Acting Foreign Minister Sisulo Sudharmen, who is also Coordinating Minister of Political and Security Affairs.

The Thai prime minister was immediately taken to Jakarta's state palace where Indonesian President Suharto accorded him a red-carpet state welcome.

Mr Chuan was accompanied by a strong delegation of about 100 people, including Deputy Prime Ministers

Amnuay Wirawan and Suphachai Panitchapak, seven Cabinet ministers, 20 high-level officials and about 30 entrepreneurs.

Suharto, Chuan Speak at Banquet

BK2704094193 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai was accorded a grand welcome by the Indonesian government on the first day of his official visit to Indonesia yesterday. After their arrival in Indonesia, the prime minister and his delegation visited the Indonesian Miniature Park. In the evening, the prime minister and his delegation were guests at a dinner banquet hosted in their honor by President Suharto and his wife. Following is a report from Indonesia by the Public Relations Department's correspondent.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] The atmosphere at the dinner banquet, held at the State Palace for Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and his delegation last night, was filled with cordial friendship between the two countries. The party, held in a grand style, was attended by a large number of guests, including Thai and Indonesian cabinet ministers and foreign diplomats. President Suharto delivered a speech. He said Indonesia believes in growing relations and close cooperation between the two countries, which will bring in greater cooperation and relations with other countries. He wanted closer economic cooperation as this would create more opportunities for cooperation at the bilateral level as well as regional cooperation among the ASEAN countries. President Suharto said that he is confident the Thai prime minister would try to promote closer economic cooperation between Thailand and Indonesia. The exchanges between the Thai and Indonesian delegations during the Thai prime minister's visit would undoubtedly contribute to an expansion in trade cooperation between the two countries.

In his reply, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said that he was very glad to be a guest of Indonesia once again, and this time in his capacity as the Thai prime minister. He congratulated President Suharto for his re-election as Indonesian president to another term, as this reflects the Indonesian people's faith and confidence in him. Chuan remarked that there are opportunities for Thailand and Indonesia, the countries with relative stability, to promote trade and investment cooperation.

[Chuan] I believe that, with the support from your excellency the president, we would be able to achieve prosperity for our nations, and will be able to contribute to the prosperity in other areas of ASEAN, that is, the growth triangle comprising Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore. Your support will contribute to the development of sub-regions in the ASEAN. Besides, I hope that the setting up of the cooperation quadrangle comprising Thailand, China, Laos, and Burma, as well as the concept about the Mekong Basin development program comprising Thailand, China, Laos, Burma, Cambodia, and Vietnam could synergize with the growth areas in ASEAN. Moreover, it is possible to expand development zones to other areas because Indonesia, which is a large country extending from the Pacific to the Indian Ocean, can play an important role as a link in economic cooperation with countries in the South Pacific and the Indian Ocean. Your excellency the president has ignited a hope in the potential of cooperation within the ASEAN bloc as well as outside the bloc. Intra-regional cooperation has come closer as a reality, and not just a dream.

[Unidentified correspondent] The prime minister also called on the international community to support the peace process in Cambodia. He said political progress must go hand in hand with economic survival. History will show that the ASEAN countries have made both physical and moral efforts in order to achieve reconciliation and reconstruction of Cambodia. The banquet ended at 2300. It left an impressive feeling for guests. [end recording]

Asia Watch Praises Jakarta on Dili Trial Observers

BK2604114393 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0803 GMT 26 Apr 93

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] The international human rights group, Asia Watch, a persistent critic of violations in the Asian region, has praised Indonesia for allowing international observers to attend the current trial of East Timorese independence leader Xanana Gusmao. But as Ian Macintosh reports from Jakarta, while the New York-based organization has some positive things to say about aspects of the trial, its opus also voiced serious concerns.

[Begin Macintosh recording] Last month the Suharto administration permitted Asia Watch to send an observer to East Timor to attend the trial of Xanana Gusmao. Apart from witnessing the Dili District Court in session, the visitor talked with high ranking government and military officials including Foreign Minister Ali Alatas; East Timor's Armed Forces chief, Brigadier General Theo Syafei; senior officers of BAIS [Strategic Intelligence Board], Indonesia's military intelligence body; and the three trial judges. There was also a meeting with the defendant's sister and brother-in-law facing detention and the offer of access to Xanana Gusmao himself. The latter encounter failed to eventuate according to Asia Watch because conditions it sought could not be met by military officials in Dili. But for someone representing a human rights monitoring group, often very unpopular in Jakarta, the observer was given considerable assistance by the authorities, a fact acknowledged in the 40-page Asia Watch report just released.

The report describes the Indonesian officials involved as generally open and frank, sometimes surprisingly so. That outside observers have been able to attend the Xanana Gusmao trial is termed a positive step. And the report says, "The fact that the government granted access to Asia Watch is to its credit, all the more so, has signaled a willingness to allow fact-finding missions by international human rights organizations in the future".

But the human rights watchdog then goes on to devote much attention to the concerns it says still remain. Asia Watch claims the Gusmao trial fell short of international standards in a number of key respects. Among them, it cites possible attempts by the authorities to influence prosecution witnesses, the blanket refusal of East Timor's provincial government to allow local officials to testify, the government's inability to guarantee the safety of witnesses, and shortcomings in courtroom translations. [end recording]

Court Prosecutor Demands Life Sentence for Xanana

BK2604123693 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1029 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Dili, E. Timor, Apr 26 (OANA/ANTARA)—The public prosecutor Monday demanded a life sentence for the accused leader of the Fretilin Security Disturbing Group (GPK) in East Timor, Jose Alexander Gusmao alias Xanana Gusmao, for attempting to overthrow the Indonesian unitary republic and illegally holding arms.

The indictments of the prosecutor were presented in a session of the district court in Dili on Monday under a panel of judges consisting of presiding Judge Hieronymus Godang SH [Master of Law] and member judges Padapotan Sinaga and A.B. Rajah.

The 110 page charge was presented in four hours seventeen minutes starting from 09.00 hours.

The prosecutor charged that Xanana was proven guilty of violating Article 106 Juncto [as received] Article 64 paragraph 1 Juncto Article 55 of the Criminal Law Code (KUHP) with a second indictment of violating Article 1 of Emergency Law No 12 of 1951.

Laos

Japanese Minister Promises Increased Aid

BK2704094993 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Koji Kakisawa reaffirmed that the Japanese Government will continue to increase assistance in the economic field to Laos.

According to authorities in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in his meetings with Lao leaders and prominent figures during his visit to Laos from 23 to 25 April, Kakisawa remarked that the relations of friendship and cooperation between Laos and Japan have gradually been consolidated and developed, especially after the official friendship visit to Japan by the late Lao president, Kaysone Phomvihan, in 1989 and the visit to Japan by the present Lao president, Nouhak Phoumsavan, in early 1992, as well as the friendship visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] by Japanese former foreign minister Nakayama in August 1990.

On the occasion of his visit to Laos, Deputy Foreign Minister Kakisawa also said that the Japanese Government supports Laos' economic restructuring policy and its broadening of foreign policy which is aimed at expanding its cooperation with other countries in this region and the world.

On the regional issue, Laos and Japan are of the same opinion on the settlement of the Cambodian conflict, particularly on a point that the Cambodian people must take the major responsibility in resolving their own problems.

While in the LPDR, Kakisawa also visited major projects, in which the Japanese Government has granted assistance to Laos, especially the Tha Ngon irrigation project, the Lao-Japanese cooperation project, the representation office of the Japanese voluntary organization, the Km 9 timber processing factory, the Km 4 ship route development project, as well as a number of projects for the building of economic foundation in Vientiane Municipality.

The Japanese deputy foreign minister has already concluded his visit to Laos and returned home on 25 April.

Economic Delegation Meets Vietnamese Counterpart

BK2704122393 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1400 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] According to a news report from Hanoi, an economic delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] led by Khamphoui Keoboualapha, member of the Political Bureau of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and deputy prime minister of the LPDR, held talks with an economic delegation of the Vietnamese Government led by Phan Van Khai, political bureau member of the Communist Party of Vietnam and deputy prime minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, in Hanoi on 23 April.

At the talks, Phan Van Khai and Khamphoui Keoboualapha agreed that the main objective of the visit to Vietnam by the Lao Government's economic delegation was to help transform the agreements previously reached by high-level party and state delegations of the two countries into real practices. In so doing, it is expected that favorable conditions would then be created to promote further development of the relations of friendship and all-round cooperation between Vietnam and Laos.

Together, both sides reviewed the outcome of the implementation of various cooperation agreements in 1992 and discussed possibilities for the improvement of cooperation in 1993.

Additionally, the discussion also touched upon the bilateral cooperation in various fields, such as the training of technical and scientific officials, and trading activities.

Thongsing Thammavong Returns From DPRK, PRC

BK2604075193 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Comrade Thongsing Thammavong, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee, and his delegation returned to Vientiane at noon on 24 April after completing their 21-day friendship visits to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China. The visits were made at the invitations of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and the Communist Party of China [CPC] Central Committee.

During the seven days of visit to the DPRK and the 14-day visit to the PRC, Comrade Thongsing Thammavong and his entourage met and exchanged views and experiences with their Korean and Chinese counterparts on the improvement of party organization and cadres. The Lao delegates also visited certain production, economic, and cultural establishments in both countries. The visits were gloriously successful.

The visits to the two countries by the Lao delegation significantly contribute to the gradual strengthening and developing of the relations of friendship between the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and Lao people; the WPK and Korean people; and the CPC and fraternal Chinese people.

Present at Wattai International Airport to welcome home the Lao delegation were Comrade Oudom Khatthi-gna, Political Bureau member of the party Central Committee, party secretary, and chairman of the Vientiane Municipal Administration; Comrade Chang Yong-chun, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the DPRK to Laos; and Comrade Huang Guocai, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the PRC to Laos; and several high-level Lao authorities.

Philippines

Bomb Explodes in Manila Airport; 1 Injured

HK2704003293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0024 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Manila, April 27 (AFP)—A homemade time bomb exploded at the domestic airport at the Philippine capital early Tuesday, injuring one employee and delaying flights for hours, officials said. Colonel Vicente Neptuno, an aviation security official, told AFP that a crude explosive left unattended outside the check-in area exploded a 4:00 a.m. Tuesday (2000 GMT Monday), causing slight injuries to a janitorial supervisor.

Police said they had no immediate suspects. The bombing occurred less than two months after a powerful explosion set off by alleged Muslim extremists destroyed the terminal building of the Zamboanga airport in the southern Philippines, leaving 19 people injured.

Neptuno said at least one other explosive fashioned out of a mortar shell with blasting caps and a timing device was found outside the pre-departure area and was immediately defused. Witnesses said the explosion, which caused no visible damage, caused panic among early morning passengers. One of them, an elderly woman, suffered deep shock and had to be rushed to a hospital.

The domestic terminal resumed four hours after the explosion. At least eight flights were disrupted, leaving a large crowd jamming the airport entrance as airport police searched for explosives among the aircraft and at the terminal building. All hand-carried luggage was opened, x-rayed and subjected to searches by police and specially trained dogs for explosives.

Explosive Contained Gunpowder

HK2704004993 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Authorities are investigating an explosion at the Manila domestic airport. According to information received earlier, a bomb placed in a light blue bag and abandoned near Terminal 1's check-in counter exploded this morning. The explosion caused no damage to the terminal, but two people suffering from shock were brought to the hospital. Authorities saw gunpowder in the damaged bag. No one has been identified as the carrier of the bag.

Reportage on ICO Karachi Meeting, MNLF Link

Pakistan Endorses Dropping Rebels Agenda

HK2204033693 Quezon City MALAYA in English 22 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by Carlito Pablo]

[Text] Pakistan has endorsed a Philippine request to delete the Muslim secessionist issue from the agenda of the Organization of Islamic Conference [ICO] and for ICO to focus instead on economic development assistance to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, sources said yesterday.

The sources said this was conveyed by Pakistani Assistant Foreign Secretary Munik Akram to Ambassador to Islamabad Narciso Valderamma.

The news came a few days before the ICO foreign ministers' meeting from April 24 to 29 in Karachi.

The sources said Pakistan is supportive of the ARMM [Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao] which accords autonomous rule to Muslims in Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi.

Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo has made individual representations with the 50 members of the ICO for the dropping of the secessionist issue. He said establishment of the ARMM in 1989 embodies the spirit of the 1976 Tripoli Agreement which calls for autonomous rule in Mindanao.

However, the sources added, Pakistan may not be able to extend an official invitation to the Philippine "goodwill mission" to the ICO meeting.

The sources said this may have been caused by the recent political turmoil in the country which saw the sacking of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the dissolution of the National Assembly.

ARMM Gov. Liningding Pangandaman who is leading the mission may opt to stay in Saudi Arabia where he arrived over the weekend to make representations with ICO leaders.

Ambassador Fortunato Oblena to the United Arab Emirates arrived in Karachi last Monday for meetings with an ICO committee monitoring the Muslim secessionist problem.

The committee is composed of Senegal, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Somalia, Indonesia, and Bangladesh.

Manila Seen Gaining With ICO

HK2304033693 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 23 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by Johanna Son]

[Text] Manila seems to be making headway in its bid to get a sympathetic ear from the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) amid efforts to settle the Muslim secessionist problem in Mindanao.

This developed as a Philippine goodwill mission was reportedly being allowed access by the Pakistani government, an OIC member, to a meeting of OIC ministers from April 24 to 29 which Karachi is hosting.

Sources say newly elected governor Lininding Pangandaman of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), who heads the mission, was officially invited as "guest" to the meeting.

Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo has also reported that the goodwill mission that is proceeding from Jeddah to Karachi has been welcomed warmly by the Pakistani government.

He neither confirmed nor denied the invitation from Pakistan, but quoted reports from Philippine officials in Karachi that the goodwill mission was being given "access to delegates" to the OIC meeting and use of facilities.

Romulo said the development was "unique" and attributed the OIC's apparent welcome of renewed Philippine diplomatic offensive regarding the secessionist problem to Manila's efforts to resolve the Muslim question.

"I think the results of the ARMM elections and the movement toward the Tripoli Agreement and the exploratory talks with the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] in Jakarta are all leading to this positive development," he added.

Manila hopes that its latest diplomatic offensive will persuade the OIC foreign ministers to delete the secession issue from the agenda of items to be discussed by OIC heads of state at a subsequent summit, and replace it with "economic assistance" to the ARMM.

Pangandaman, along with Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Fortunato Oblena, proceeded to Karachi from Jeddah, where he met with OIC secretary general Hamid al-Gabid and handed him a letter from Romulo thanking the OIC for helping Manila resolve the Muslim problem.

In his letter, Romulo solicited the OIC official's understanding regarding the situation in Muslim Mindanao and expressed gratitude over the OIC's efforts "for a speedy solution" to the secessionist problem.

Representatives Eduardo Ermita and Nur Jaafar, who held exploratory talks with the MNLF in Jakarta recently, are set to join Pangandaman, Oblena and Ambassador to Pakistan Nicasio Valderama in Karachi. Romulo also said that positive feedback may have reached OIC members following President Ramos' surprise visit to a luncheon of ambassadors of OIC members last week.

Sources said that OIC officials in Jeddah seemed "very receptive" to the idea of extending economic aid to Muslim Mindanao.

The secession issue is listed as Agenda 44—entitled "The Question of Muslims in Southern Philippines"—out of 74 topics to be tackled by the OIC.

MNLF Chief Refuses To Go to Manila

BK2504132093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1306 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Karachi, April 25 (AFP)—The head of the guerrilla group fighting a separatist campaign in the southern Philippines said Sunday he would not go to Manila for peace talks with President Fidel Ramos because he feared assassination. Nur Misuari, head of the Moro National Liberation Front, told AFP here at the annual foreign ministers meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference that the Philippine government was insisting that he go to Manila for peace talks agreed to at an exploratory meeting in Jakarta.

"Manila is not neutral territory," he said, adding that if the Philippine government did not drop this demand, "there can be no peace talks." "It's the better part of judgment not to take the risk," he said, adding that there was a "very strong possibility" he would be assassinated in Manila, as was opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino in 1983.

Aquino's murder by members of the security forces upon return from exile in the United States sparked a peaceful revolution that ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos and propelled his wife Corazon to the presidency. "I warned Ninoy about the scenario of his death. He called me from Boston before going to Manila and I warned him not to go," Misauri said. "I knew about the plot to kill him because we have an extremely good intelligence network."

Misuari said the OIC conference would help exert pressure on the Philippine government to change its stance on the venue of the meeting. Another reason not to go to Manila was because it would be "demoralizing" to the Moro followers, he said. "By no means shall we meet them in Manila."

Officials traveling with Misuari said the Moros were not involved in terrorist activities, and took credit for the recent release of two Catholic nuns who had been kidnapped. The Moros have been fighting for the secession of Mindanao since 1972, receiving the support of some Middle East countries, but their strength is thought to have been on the wane since the late 1970s.

Ramos Asks ICO To Support Talks

HK2604091993 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] President Fidel V. Ramos today asked Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] members currently meeting in Karachi, Pakistan to support the government's peace talks with the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] in June.

In a letter sent to the World Muslim League, or Rabita, the president said the ICO could do a great deal to help achieve peace in southern Philippines, where an ongoing conflict has caused the loss of many lives and a huge amount of property damage. The president also admitted that the Mindanao conflict would be difficult to resolve without the help of Muslims worldwide.

Meanwhile, the president said that his party, the National Union of Christian Democrats, will send a delegation to the peace conference in Moscow, to be participated in by Rabita, the Christian Democrat International, and the Russian Orthodox Church. The four-man delegation will be led by House Speaker Jose de Venecim and will include Amado Luis Lagdameo, Sanchez Ali, and Danilo Coronacion.

NUC Fears Internal NDF Rift To Affect Peace Process

HK2604092093 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] National Unification Commission Chairperson Haydee Yorac has expressed fear that the reported rift within the communist movement may affect the government-sponsored peace process. Yorac said the dispute involving the Communist Party of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front [NDF] might be an obstacle to the ongoing peace talks. Yorac further clarified that she prefers negotiating with just one group of communist rebels rather than many factions and stressed the government's firm position in favor of holding formal peace talks with the NDF in the country.

NUC Rejects Rebel Demand for Belligerency Status

HK2604131893 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 24 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by Redempto Anda]

[Text] The National Unification Commission (NUC) will not grant any insurgent group it will hold peace talks with the status of a rival government and will consequently not allow a third party to participate in the negotiations.

Haydee Yorac, NUC chairman, said the government will never accord belligerency status to any of the armed groups. "There is only one sovereignty—that of the Republic of the Philippines."

The government has been trying to talk peace with communist, right-wing, and Muslim rebels. It has so far been successful in holding initial negotiations with them.

The NUC firmed up its position on the belligerency-status issue after questions were raised about the involvement of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Indonesian Government, in recent exploratory talks with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), and the demand by the leftist National Democratic Front (NDF) that a third party be present at the next round of preliminary negotiations.

Yorac said that in the NDF's case, "there is a strong objection within the NUC to allowing a third party because there is no basis for it."

She said that, while the OIC and the Indonesian Government were represented during the two-day meeting with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) held near Jakarta the other week, "they were simply there to bring the parties together."

Yorac also announced following the regular meeting of the OIC last Thursday that it is discussing with the NDF where in Southeast Asia the second exploratory meeting could be held.

NUC sources said Yorac "feels strongly against subtle but significant moves of the NDF to present itself as a belligerent force."

The sources said that even during the Marcos administration, the NDF had campaigned for a status similar to that of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), which is recognized by the United Nations as a belligerent force and has been granted an observer seat in the General Assembly.

For the UN to grant an insurgent force belligerency status, it should be able to claim to a significant portion of Philippine territory where it exercises control and some form of government, the sources said.

"For the NDF to be granted a status of belligerency is not only a matter of prestige to them. It will also open the floodgates to direct support from sympathetic governments and formal diplomatic ties," the sources said.

The NUC had earlier planned to send Rep. Eduardo Ermita to Karachi, Pakistan, to observe the meeting of OIC ministers and discuss witht hem the question of venue for the formal talks with the MNLF.

Ermita headed the Philippine side that talked with Nur Misuari, the MNLF chairman, in Jakarta.

The NUC has changed its mind, apparently avoiding to play up the role of the OIC in negotiations with the Muslim secessionist group.

IMF Remains Unconvinced on Growth Targets

HK2604125293 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 26 Apr 93 p 9

[Report by Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.]

[Text] The Government has failed to convince the International MOnetary Fund (IMF) that the country has the capacity to finance its growth plan, of which a major portion is to be financed by the IMF.

Finance Secretary Ramon R. del Rosario said the talks with the IMF would end today without reaching any agreement but expressed the hope that a third round of talks could be started soon.

The IMF is being asked by the government to finance a portion of its medium term economic plan which could lead to a 3.5 to 4.5 percent growth this year.

Del Rosario said the growth target is considered too high by the IMF largely because of the brownouts which have crippled industries and slowed productivity.

Also blamed for the failure of the government to win an IMF loan approval was the country's inability to increase revenues to reduce its widening budget gap, planed at P56 billion [Philippine pesos] this year, or more than double what was earlier projected.

He said "we will most likely need a third round of negotiations soon" to hammer out a new economic program in time for their June deadline.

Central Bank (CB) Gov. Jose L. Cuisia Jr. agreed that at the rate things are moving in the negotiations, "it looks like we will have to schedule a third round of talks."

Both officials said the government will make an announcement today on when the third round of negotiations will be held.

Without a new loan agreement with the IMF, Paris Club creditors are not likely to restructure the $1 billion debt owed to them by the government, according to del Rosario.

Del Rosario said the talks have dwelled so long on the fiscal side which has "left so many things that we haven't yet discussed."

Thailand

Columnist Urges Tough Action on Copyrights

BK2504024493 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 25 Apr 93 93 p 23

[From the "Perspective" page by guest columnist Phichit Chongsatthitwathana, president of the Footwear Industry Club, affiliation of the Federation of Thai Industry and president of A A Footwear Co Ltd.]

[Text] One-third of the workforce employed in the footwear industry could have their employment threatened if the US Government decides to impose a sanction against the import of Thai-made shoes following the Thai Government's failure to crack down on violations of intellectual-property rights within the April 30 deadline.

That involves no less than 30,000 persons and it could go as high as 50,000 if employment in related industries is included, according to a report prepared by the Footwear Industry Club, a unit of the Federation of Thai Industry.

American-bound shoes account for one-third of last year's total footwear exports, valued at US$1 billion.

At stake is the future of Thailand's exports to the US which was predicted by the Commerce Ministry earlier at US$9 billion for 1993.

If the sanction is imposed, Washington could slap 100 per cent tariffs on Bangkok's top 20 export items to that country. This includes garment/textile, jewellery, shoes, canned tuna, electronic and computer parts and others.

Once this happens, the costs of Thai products in the US would be two times what they are now, a Nike representative in Bangkok has warned its Thai suppliers in a recent memo.

With such a sanction, industry sources predict Thai exports will be forced out of the US market automatically. Orders for Thai-made goods will go to more cost-competitive countries including Indonesia, China and the Philippines. Already the Footwear Club's report pointed to a 50 per cent drop in business for US-bound orders for the third quarter of this year as buyers have adopted a wait-and-see attitude. Vice versa, both Nike and Reebok, two leading US importers, were planning to increase their shipments from Bangkok had there been no sanction against Thailand.

The same applies to winter orders booked by garment/textile and jewellery exporters for shipments between June and August. They are seeing their sales eroding.

According to the Thai Commerce Ministry's report, the US accounts for 23 per cent of Thailand's total exports in 1993, estimated at 961 billion baht. Bangkok was also ranked the 16th biggest supplier to the US market, taking 1.3 per cent market share of that country in 1991, the latest year in which figures were available.

In details Thai goods captured the following market shares in the US in 1990:

Textile: 1.9 per cent; computer parts: 2.1 per cent; canned tuna: 72 per cent; electronic circuits: 3.6 per cent; jewellery: 5.8 per cent; footwear: 3.1 per cent; frozen shrimp: 11.2 per cent; video and audio parts: 4.9 per cent; TV and radio parts: 1.5 per cent; toys: 2.4 per cent; rubber: 11.4 per cent; travelling kits: 3.3 per cent; canned pineapple: 46.7 per cent; furniture and parts: 1.7 per cent; automobile tyres: 0.4 per cent.

There is a growing alarm among Thai exporters of an imminent threat cast on their business. The writing on the wall is clear. If Thai exporters want to survive, they either have to relocate their factories, reduce production capacity, or look for new markets elsewhere. Big industries—primarily those exporting to the US—will be in a better position to weather the storm eventually. But medium and small exporters will see their non-US market shares squeezed in by big exporters who, in turn, try to make an inroad into the markets. In the worst-case scenario, a Footwear Club report points to the prospect of a massive layoff in US-bound export industries if they could not cope with the American sanction.

Washington has been contending all along that the Thai Government has done too little too late in the crackdown against violations of US intellectual-property rights though the anti-piracy law was passed by the Anan administration in 1992.

"Thailand is the only country that has done literally nothing. It has never convicted a manufacturer of copyrighted material. The situation is outrageous," said Eric Smith, a leading rights lobbyist in an interview with the ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL. Mr Smith leads the International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA), a lobby group representing the US motion picture, publishing, computer, software and recording industries. Rights lobbyists have been pushing the Clinton Administration to retaliate against rights- violated countries to which Thailand is named among the top three offenders. Taiwan and India are the other two. The three Asian nations have been identified as "priority foreign countries"—a level next to the retaliation hit list—since 1991.

Washington decided not to take any action against Bangkok last year as Thailand went through a political turmoil. But the Clinton Administration—voted partially into office by rights lobbying groups—is taking up this matter seriously. IIPA estimated that Bangkok's infringement on American copyright has caused US business a loss of US$123 million in terms of profit and job growth, a claim which the White House will not take lightly.

Bangkok is ranked in the top five in an IIPA report which calculates in dollar terms losses suffered by US business on copyright infringement activities. Taiwan comes first with US$669 million, Seoul $416 million, China $415 million and India $169 million.

Though Bangkok comes fifth in the list, IIPA lobbyists still point an accusing finger at the Thai Government for failure to prosecute rights violators and to carry on anti-piracy activities consistently. In February, a Seoul court decided to convict a rights-infringed manufacturer to a ten-month suspended jail term plus a royalty payback to an American rights owner. In Taiwan this week, as pressure from business groups kept growing, the law-making body decided not to pursue an amendment in copyright legislation. China, meanwhile, has offered American telecommunications and automobile industries a lucrative deal to appease Washington.

Through the USTR, Washington has annually identified rights violators and offered retaliatory measures against them. On the coming April 30, the USTR will release its report—the content of which, if worse comes to worst, would mean a frightening sanction against Thailand. In its report, the Footwear Club recommends the Thai authorities to get tough with copyrights offenders, otherwise the whole US-bound export economy would face colossal consequences.

Market Share of Thailand's Major Export Merchandise in the US

	U.S. Total Import (million $)			Import from Thailand (million $)			Market Share (Percent)		
	1988	1989	1990	1988	1989	1990	1988	1989	1990
Merchandise									
1. Textile	28298	33141	34337	428	585	645	1.5	1.8	1.9
2. Computer and Parts	13486	22177	23746	330	436	503	1.8	2.0	2.1
3. CannedTuna	111374	158027	129311	31594	112762	93168	73.3	71.4	72.0
4. Electronic Circuits	3683	10890	10667	400	358	381	4.6	3.3	3.6
5. Jewelry	7368	7762	7207	336	385	418	4.6	5.0	5.0

Market Share of Thailand's Major Export Merchandise in the US (Continued)

	U.S. Total Import (million $)			Import from Thailand (million $)			Market Share (Percent)		
	1988	1989	1990	1988	1989	1990	1988	1989	1990
6. Footwear	8041	8795	10011	111	201	3[illegible]1	1.4	2.3	3.1
7. Frozen Shrimps	228600	328200	227400	10800	22000	25400	4.7	9.7	11.2
8. Video & Auto Parts	—	4713	4713	—	117	211	—	2.5	4.9
9. TV & Radio Parts	6489	6731	6129	2	36	93	0.03	0.5	1.5
10. Toys	3069	720	886	0.2	10	21	0.01	3.4	2.4
11. Rubber	355600	909500	837100	81200	95600	95600	9.5	10.5	11.4
12. Travelling Kits	1978	2262	2362	42	59	79	2.1	2.6	3.3
13. Canned Pineapple	253380	294551	273981	130786	136220	128019	51.6	46.2	46.7
14. Furniture & Parts	4837	5278	5360	82	86	91	1.7	1.6	1.7
15. Automobile Tyres	2448	2910	2763	2	9	12	0.1	0.3	0.4

Sources: ESCAP, Commodity & Marketing Research Division, Ministry of Commerce

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Commercial Counsellor: U.S. Reprieve 'Minimum Penalty'

BK2704011793 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Apr 93 p B1

[By Atchara Phongwutthitham]

[Text] The Thai Commercial Counsellor in Washington DC has described the US Trade Representative's [USTR's] decision to give Thailand a three-month reprieve before considering whether or not to retaliate against Thai exports as the "minimum penalty".

A source claimed that in a letter from the Thai Commercial Counsellor MR Napthong Thongyai to the Permanent Secretary of the Commerce Ministry, MR Napthong said the USTR's decision to give Thailand a three-month stay of execution was a change to its original plan.

The letter said, according to the source, that the USTR had originally planned to retaliate against Thai exports as an example to other countries also engaged in piracy. And having made the decision, the USTR had not intended to hold further talks with Thai officials, the source added.

The US Information Service yesterday released a report confirming this week's agenda. It reads: "Talks aimed at resolving bilateral disputes over intellectual property issues will resume this week in Washington..

...Resumption of bilateral consultations was agreed by both sides following detailed examination and discussions in diplomatic channels of the concrete measures taken by the Thai government in recent weeks to advance copyright enforcement.

The Thai government has carefully explained its policy of taking firm and unstinted measures to stamp out copyright piracy. The United States government has welcomed these steps, which have, for the first time, had a real impact on the illegal manufacture and sale of copyrighted material.

These measures, if sustained, will help set the stage for a lasting improvement in our trade relations with Thailand," the release said.

The Trade Policy Review Group of the US government decided on April 22 to hold further negotiations with Thai officials. Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon is scheduled to meet with USTR officials in the United States this week.

Uthai said yesterday that he will present the USTR with new proposals, proposals which have never been made by any previous Thai government. He is scheduled to meet Ira Shapiro, general counsel for the USTR office.

Thai and US officials are then expected to enter a tough round of bargaining about the United States' request for Thailand to change its regulations on the compulsory licensing of overseas drugs.

The two will also discuss the US' demands for protection of drugs which are already patented but have yet to pass clinical test procedures, the so-called 'pipeline period'.

Uthai is expected to leave Bangkok on Wednesday evening.

In the letter, MR Napthong also said, "It is noted that the US had not intended to open another round of talks with Thailand because it wanted to impose retaliations against Thai exports as an exemplary case. It was a result of strong pressure from its private sector. ...But as the US has given Thailand a three-month reprieve before considering whether to retaliate against the piracy of US property, we consider the decision to be the minimum penalty that could be imposed by the US.

"Furthermore, the US has given the country a 90-day reprieve to redress its state's policy," Last Friday, the USTR Michael Kantor informed the Thai ambassador in Washington DC, ML Phiraphong Kasemsi, that the United States has already made the decision to keep Thailand on the priority foreign country (PFC) watchlist, but no retaliation against Thai exports will take place until July 31.

He added that any action taken will be subject to the results of efforts being made by Thai officials to crack down on pirate music and video tapes in the three months.

"The reprieve shows that the US appreciates our actions in the past two months, but we should not take it for granted and ease our current campaign," Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchphak said yesterday. Suphachai has decided not to join Uthai's trip to Washington.

US officials suggested that Thai senior officials—during the previous round of talks—sign a memorandum of understanding [MOU] which required Thailand to give a binding commitment to completely eradicate piracy. Uthai said that Thailand would decide whether to sign the MOU or not after assessing the outcome of this week's talks.

Uthai said that the USTR was looking forward to the next round of talks because it is keen to hear Thailand's latest proposals.

Minister's Planned U.S. Trip Beset by Doubts

BK2704025593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Apr 93 p 19

[Text] Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon was certain yesterday that he will visit Washington this week to discuss copyrights and patents with American officials, but almost everything else about the visit remained unclear.

He and his assistants were even unsure yesterday whether he would leave Bangkok tomorrow or Thursday.

Thai and US officials were said to be continuing to work out whether Mr Uthai will be able to meet US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor either this week or next. After Friday, Mr Kantor will not be in Washington until the following Tuesday, May 4, although a meeting has been arranged with Ira Shapiro, general counsel of the Office of the US Trade Representative.

At the same time, conflicting explanations were given about Mr Uthai's purpose in travelling to Washington in person in a week when Mr Kantor is said to be extremely busy. Mr Kantor is preparing announcements due out on Friday on all countries under investigation for alleged unfair trade practices.

According to one of Mr Uthai's aides, now that Mr Kantor has told Thailand informally that no sanctions will be imposed this week, Mr Uthai's purpose will simply be for the two ministers to get to know each other so that a better understanding is created for future talks.

Mr Uthai denied this, however. He said his purpose was to get Thailand off the Priority Foreign Country list of nations closest to suffering US trade sanctions. He was unclear about whether he hoped to achieve the removal in the April 30 announcement or within the extra three months Mr Kantor has said he will give Thailand to show progress or copyrights and patents.

He defended his decision to trave to Washington this week even though Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Panitchaphak has cast doubt on the value at this stage.

Dr Suphachai, who heads the Government's international economic relations committee, has suggested that the Americans will be more impressed by evidence that the crackdown on copyright piracy is genuine and sustained.

Mr Uthai said a ministerial visit to Washington should take place now before the Thai Parliament reconvenes later next month. Following the decision not to announce retaliation against Thailand on April 30, the situation can only get better, he said. "We could achieve something good, something more than we expected, just as this time we expected to be hit by retaliation, both according to our own evaluation and that of our friends, but still we turned the situation round within two weeks," he said, referring to this month's crackdown on tape piracy.

He added that the Thai delegation which includes officials who are due to leave for Washington today, has some new proposals to submit to the Americans.

Asked whether he needs a new negotiating mandate, Mr Uthai said the Cabinet's previous instructions to Dr Suphachai are still valid. Over the weekend, one of Mr Uthai's aides said the minister would need a new mandate because Dr Suphachai would not be travelling to Washington.

Commerce Ministry sources quote M R Napthong Thongyai, the Thai commercial counsellor in Washington, as reporting that the US Trade Representative had originally intended to impose punitive tariffs on Thai exports because of continued failure to take strong action against piracy in Thailand.

Mr Uthai said the crackdown has been almost 100 percent successful. But, he added, one problem remains because copyright holders, fearing reprisals from "influential" figures involved in piracy, are refusing to testify that seized products are their intellectual property.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai meanwhile, underscored his Government's determination to make the crackdown on piracy lasting. Speaking to reporters during his flight to Indonesia, he said previous governments had been morte relucatant because of their connections with "influential" people involved in piracy.

Cambodian Refugees Resist Repatriation

BK2704015993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Apr 93 p 7

[Text] Several hundred Cambodian refugees were adamantly refusing to return home from a Thai border camp yesterday, two days before the scheduled end of a massive UN repatriation programme, a senior UN official said.

Some refugees appeared to be getting "increasingly violent" as UN officials tried to persuade them to board the last convoys Tuesday and Wednesday from the Site 2 camp to Cambodia, said Dan Conway, the head of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Thailand.

The refugees had pushed around and threatened relief officials, although no serious incident had taken place, Conway added.

He said there were about 4,300 people left in Site 2, the last Cambodian refugee camp on Thai soil, with up to 800 resisting repatriation.

After the last UN convoy leaves Site 2, which once housed more than 200,000 Cambodians, it will become a "closed camp" under the responsibility of the Thai military, Conway noted.

Thai military officials refrained from saying what they would do if the Cambodians refused to go home voluntarily.

Site 2 was officially shut down March 30 during a ceremony at which a small group of refugees demonstrated against their forthcoming repatriation.

Foreign Ministry Opposes Reopened Borders

BK2704015793 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Apr 93 p A2

[Text] Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut will today ask the Cabinet to consider reopening the border with Cambodia for legitimate Thai loggers to transfer processed timber, against the opposition of the Foreign Ministry, a senior official of the ministry said yesterday.

Secretary to the Interior Minister Thawachwong na Chiang Mai said Gen Chawalit would seek Cabinet approval for temporarily reopening all crossing points along the Thai-Cambodia border, including those in Khmer Rouge-controlled areas in western Cambodia.

This is aimed at helping the 27 Thai companies operating in that country to haul processed wood into Thailand.

Chawalit is also expected to take a tough stand in wanting entry points along the Thai-Burmese border to be reopened to assist Thai timber firms cutting wood there.

Interior is fearful that the already tense situation in Cambodia might deteriorate. And if the reopening of the crossing points is not allowed in Khmer Rouge-occupied areas, the violence will directly affect Thailand, according to the secretary.

However, he said the Foreign Ministry was against the proposal, reasoning the move runs counter to the United Nations-sanctioned embargo on the Khmer Rouge. The Thai Government closed the border with Cambodia on Dec 31, 1992, in response to the UN sanctions.

After two days of talks between Gen Chawalit and all Cambodian factions at the end of last week, Thawachwong said, they did not oppose the plan for Thai companies to take out processed wood.

Besides, he said, the Interior would back its request to the Cabinet with details of other countries' wood processing business in the wartorn country.

The interior minister will also seek Cabinet approval to temporarily reopen Thai-Burmese border crossings closed because of fighting across the frontier and to open an additional 14.

"We are doing this because of the request from the 21 companies operating logging businesses in Burma. If the government won't do it, it doesn't deserve to be the government," said Chawalit.

Meanwhile, Deputy Agriculture Minister Suthep Thuaksuban voiced support for Chawalit's proposal to reopen the Thai border with Burma, saying Rangoon itself wanted to sell the logs and timber to Thailand.

Besides, logs from Burma are cheaper than those from Malaysia and Indonesia according to the deputy minister.

He said the import of Burmese logs would help ease the deforestation situation in the country and lower construction costs.

The Agriculture Ministry plans to hold talks with Burma aimed at asking Rangoon to grant logging concessions to the Forestry Industrial Organization (FIO) which will finally distribute its concessions to private timber companies.

Suthep said the current government was concerned with the logging business and has exercised its policy through the Agriculture Ministry's budget for people with their own land to grow precious wood including teak.

The Bt [baht] 3,000 a rai will be set aside for them for a five-year period.

He also said although the government planned to have a million rai of the precious trees planted yearly, in the 1994 fiscal year he expected only 500,000 rai to be covered.

Former prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan yesterday said Thailand should pressure the Khmer Rouge into joining the scheduled May election.

His comment drew quick response from Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri. "When he was the prime minister, why didn't he do so? Anybody can say that now."

Chatchai told reporters after his return from London that Thailand must prevent early misunderstanding that it is supporting the Khmer Rouge by using its influence over the radical faction to make it join the electoral process.

Minister Seeks Open Borders for Loggers

BK2504035893 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Apr 93 p 1

[By Aphisak Thanasetthakon]

[Text] Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut will ask the Cabinet to consider re-opening the border with Cambodia and Burma to allow Thai loggers operating under rightful concessions to haul out equipment and timber, according to Agriculture Ministry sources.

Gen Chawalit would recommend that the Cabinet temporarily re-open 21 border crossing points with Cambodia to ease the hardship on Thai loggers resulting from the United Nations sanctioned embargo against the Khmer Rouge, the sources said.

The embargo had caused losses to Thai businesses estimated at Bt[baht]6 billion.

The Cabinet would be asked to temporarily re-open crossings into Cambodia to workers and vehicles of 27 Thai companies.

The Supreme National Council of Cambodia last month gave its approval for Thai businessmen to take out timber from concessions provided that their concessions had been granted by the Phnom Penh government.

No logs or processed wood from Khmer Rouge-controlled areas in western Cambodia will be allowed into Thailand.

The UN-sanctioned embargo against the Khmer Rouge is aimed at compelling the fanatic Marxist group to comply with the UN-brokered Paris peace accords, including participation in the May general elections.

Thailand's Interior and Foreign ministries have also given permission for Thai investors who have concessions to operate wood-processing businesses in Cambodia.

When the government closed the border on Dec 31, 1992, in response to UN sanctions against the Khmer Rouge, only 500,000 cubic metres of logs were moved out of Cambodia, the source said. Cut logs worth billions of baht were left behind.

The 27 Thai logging companies doing business in Cambodia before the border closed held concessions to extract a total of 47,898,012 cubic metres of logs and 8,820,000 cubic metres of processed timber—mostly from Khmer Rouge territory.

About 2,700 Thai workers remain in Cambodia and at least 1,242 items of machinery and equipment with an estimated combined value of Bt6 billion.

Among the companies asking for the border to re-open are Wooden Supply Import Export Co, World Trade Plus Co and the Forestry Industry Organization.

Of the myriad crossing points between Thailand and Cambodia, only thoge in Prachinburi and Sunn remain open for small-scale cross-border trade.

According to a source in the Agriculture Ministry, Chawalit will also seek Cabinet approval to reopen Thai-Burmese border crossings closed because of fighting across the frontier.

Fourteen Thai logging companies say they have been badly hurt financially by the border closure and are eager to bring out more than 500,000 cubic metres of logs legally felled in Burma.

Most of the border crossings between Thailand and Burma have been closed because of intensified fighting in the area between Burmese government troops and armed ethnic minorities during the dry season.

According to the source, the Foreign Ministry has recommended that all contracts and concessions granted by the Rangoon government to Thai loggers should be looked over before the frontier is re-opened.

However, the Interior Ministry was of the view that re-opening the border to allow movement of the back log of timber would also provide easier access between the two countries in the event Thailand was granted further logging concessions in Burma in the future, said the source.

The National Security Council has approved re-opening of the Burmese border on the condition that only Thai loggers operating with the approval of Rangoon government are allowed across, the sources said.

However, concern had been expressed that the move would result in further deforestation along both sides of the border, as areas would have to be cleared on the Thai side to operate as receiving stations.

Deputy Agriculture Minister Suthep Thuaksuban has asked Forestry Department officials to report on the possible impact on the country's forests, a source said.

Prasong: No Burma Policy Changes

BK2504023493 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 25 Apr 93 p 2

[Text] Thailand will adhere to its constructive engagement policy toward Burma which is the most appropriate way to deal with its western neighbour, Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said yesterday.

Sqn [Squadron] Leader Prasong insisted on pursuing the policy after it was raised at a meeting of policymakers at the Foreign Ministry last Thursday.

The participants, among others, included Defence Minister Wichit Sukmak, Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut and National Security Council chief Gen Charan Kunlawanit.

Sqn Ldr Prasong reaffirmed Thailand's stance of non-interference in Burmese affairs as it realised well there was tremendous pressure from other countries on its neighbour.

The international community is pressuring the State of Law and Order Council—Burma's ruling military junta—to respect the outcome of the 1990 elections in which popular leader Aung San Suu Kyi led the National League for Democracy to a landslide victory.

The Foreign Minister said the softer stance of "Asian approach" was a more effective way to deal with Burma to bring about changes which "should come from inside" instead of as a result of pressure from outsiders.

Meanwhile, Burmese Ambassador to Thailand U Phone Myint, addressing the 49th session of the Economic and Social Commission on Asia and the Pacific, said Burma was happy with the rate at which his country's economy grew last year.

The economy grew 10.9 per cent against the projected target of 5.8 per cent, the ambassador said.

He also urged the world body to help developing countries as recommended in the 1992 Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific.

"We fully endorse the survey's recommendation that reactivating world economic growth and assisting developing countries in their development should be the primary objectives of international policy," the ambassador said in the statement.

Prasong, Lao Minister Discuss Mekong, Borders, SRV

BK2404034593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Apr 93 p 8

[Text] Laos has agreed in principle to support the idea of holding a meeting of experts from four countries sharing the upper part of the Mekong River, Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said yesterday.

The expression of support came from Laotian Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat who met with Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong yesterday morning before leaving for France.

But it was not clear whether the landlocked country would actually join the meeting Thailand has proposed to hold late next month.

Sqn Ldr Prasong quoted his counterpart as saying Laos agreed to cooperate with the plan.

Laos also appreciates the benefits to be gained from the development of the sub-region encompassing northern Thailand, Laos, Burma and southern China, he said.

But in a separate interview shortly after meeting Sqn Ldr Prasong, Mr Souban said, although Laos welcomed the idea, more discussion was needed among the concerned authorities in his country and among other participating states.

"The idea is very good but we need more consultations," he said.

So far, only China has agreed to join the proposed meeting of experts of all four countries in the sub-region.

The two ministers also discussed the development of a transport network that would link northeastern Thailand with Laos and Vietnam.

The Laotian deputy foreign minister said his country was worried about sources of funding to support the project.

There is also the key question of routing which remains stalled pending a decision on the Vietnamese port to be used, Hon La or Danang, observers said.

Mr Souban also expressed concern over unsettled matters surrounding the territorial dispute at Ban Rom Klao on the Thai-Laotian border.

Sgn Ldr Prasong assured his counterpart that settlement of the issue would be on the basis of "all facts and all possibilities".

Thailand and Laos are seeking more facts to settle the borderline at Ban Rom Klao and have agreed to discuss the problem at a special meeting of the joint boundary commission in Vientiane at the end of this year.

In yesterday's talks, Foreign Minister Prasong conveyed an invitation for the newly-elected Laotian Foreign Minister Somsavat Lengsavat to visit Thailand next month.

Prasong Reports on Meeting

BK2404042093 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] At 1100 today, Lao Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat called on Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri at the Foreign Ministry. Reporting to newsmen afterward, the foreign minister said the Lao deputy foreign minister informed him about work of the joint Thai-Lao borderline committee which met in Phuket recently. The Lao minister asked the foreign minister to consider the border line issue. There is disagreement over certain parts of the border, such as the proposed Lao no man's land. The foreign minister informed the Lao official that he and his deputy, Surin Phitsuwan, who is the chairman of the Thai side in the committee, would consider the matter. The foreign minister also invited Somsavat Lengsavat, the new Lao foreign minister, to pay an official visit in late May.

The foreign minister said Thai-Lao cooperation was also brought up for discussion during the meeting with the Lao deputy foreign minister, particularly development of land routes which the Lao side very much wants built. The Foreign Ministry has already sent a team to inspect the route from Chiang Khong to Houai Sai, Mouang Sing, Pak Beng, and finally to southern Yunnan Province. Another team will be sent for an inspection that will include parts of the route inside Burma. The foreign minister said Thailand will assist in this matter as much as possible.

The Thai and Lao ministers also discussed cooperation between the countries in the Upper Mekong River Basin, which includes Thailand, Laos, China, and Burma. A meeting of technical officials from the four countries will be held when they are ready. The Thai Foreign Ministry is in the process of coordinating such a meeting. The Lao side pledged to cooperate in this matter. Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen has been informed by the Thai counterpart on this topic. The Burmese side has also been informed. A meeting will be held in Bangkok when all sides are ready.

Central Bank Notes Lao Border Trade Up

BK2404074693 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Last year Thai-Lao border trade amounted to 3,982.5 million baht, an increase of 486.2 million baht over last year's figures. The Bank of Thailand's regional office in the northeast reports that Thai exports to Laos totaled over 2.8 billion baht. Imports from Laos totaled over 1.1 billion baht. The Bank of Thailand adds that deposits in commercial banks in the northeast outweigh credits with an increase of about 1.2 percent.

Qian Qichen Speaks on Taiwan, Hong Kong Issues

BK2304115993 Bangkok XING XIAN RIBAO in Chinese 21 Apr 93 p 4

[By correspondent Liu Zhenyang]

[Text] Qian Qichen, Chinese vice prime minister and foreign minister, last night called on Thai citizens of Chinese origin to make great contributions to Thailand's economic development. Ethnic Chinese should have roots at the places where they were born and cooperate with local people to contribute to economic and social development.

He said China is intensifying its open door policy and speeding up economic reforms. Not only ethnic Chinese, but Americans and Japanese are also investing in China. China's business circles have also started investing in foreign countries. The Chinese Government encourages its entrepreneurs to invest in Thailand.

Qian Qichen pointed out that the current world situation is very turbulent. Only China and the Asia-Pacific region are more stable for livelihood and economic development. He stressed that "China's development is getting stronger, and reunification cannot be obstructed."

Qian Qichen said Taiwan can maintain the current economic system. The Taiwanese can go to mainland China to do business and to invest. But, they cannot call for independence, create two Chinas, or return to the United Nations.

Qian Qichen made the above remarks during a meeting with 18 ethnic Chinese Thai leaders and businessmen at the Grand Hyatt Erawan Hotel. He called on them to contribute to China's great undertaking of national reunification.

Qian Qichen said China will finally achieve this great undertaking. He said both sides across the straits will uphold a one-China policy. As Taiwan is small in area there is not much room for economic development. So, they have come to invest in the mainland. Economic cooperation and trade volume between the two sides are huge. We advocate a gradual reunification through contacts between the people and economic cooperation. Calls for Taiwanese independence, the creation of two Chinas, or Taiwan's return to the United Nations are unacceptable.

He pointed out that the the Ku-Wang [Ku Chen-fu, chairman of the Straits Exchange Foundation of Taiwan, and Wang Daohan, head of China's Association for Relations across the Taiwan Straits] talks in Singapore next week will be a meeting between nongovernmental organizations, and that they will not discuss political matters. The chiefs of the delegations of the two sides across the straits—Ku Chen-fu and Wang Daohan—are senior statesmen.

Qian Qichen added that the number of Taiwanese visiting mainland China has reached 1 million. But, only 2,000 people from the mainland can visit Taiwan. There is a huge gap between these figures. He hoped the two sides will strengthen contact between theer peoples.

Qian Qichen also talked to the representatives about the Sino- British talks on Hong Kong. There are some problems facing the return of Hong Kong to China. But, he hoped that the Chinese and British Governments would be able to settle the problems through consultations.

During the meeting, Qian Qichen also expressed the hope that Thai citizens of Chinese origin will contribute greatly to the development of friendly relations and economic cooperation between China and Thailand. He said that his visit to Thailand is very successful. He is satisfied with the development of the bilateral relations. China and Thailand will further strengthen their friendly relations and economic, investment, and technological cooperation. They will also strengthen regional cooperation to promote economic development in this region. China and Thailand will cooperate closely in making joint efforts for regional peace, stability, and development.

Deputy Minister Leaves for Saudi Arabia 22 Apr

BK2204053993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Apr 93 p 3

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan yesterday confirmed he would leave today for Saudi Arabia on an official visit.

Mr Surin said he would leave for Saudi Arabia at 7.55 p.m. and would stay there until April 28, during which time he would visit both Riyadh and Jeddah.

His trip will also include Egypt before his return to Thailand on May

Mr Surin said he would call on Prince Faisal the prince whose jewellery was stolen by a Thai worker in 1989, and a number of Saudi ministers including the foreign minister, interior minister and haj minister to strengthen Thailand's ties with the Mideast country.

Riyadh reportedly said earlier the visit was too early to discuss in detail the Thai findings into a number of crimes involving Saudis, but Mr Surin said he was confident there were many things to discuss which would help improve relations between the two countries.

Saudi Arabia has softened its stance after it was angered by the crimes and apparent inaction in trying to solve them and now has a better attitude towards Thailand, he said.

This is because we have expressed our sincerity in solving the Saudi-related cases, said Mr Surin, and Riyadh recently gave a warm welcome to a Thai Deputy House Speaker during his visit there.

"It is necessary to improve and strengthen relations between Thailand and Saudi Arabia and we should not let anything hurt these ties", he said.

The deputy minister said he planned to hold talks with Saudi officials on exempting the aviation tax, on trade cooperation,, investment and measures to prevent a recurrence of events which have hurt ties between the countries in the past.

Mr Surin said he would visit Egypt to strengthen ties and discuss trade and investment cooperation.

"The Middle Eastern countries are very significant to Thailand and have a better attitude towards our country lately. "The Kuwaiti oil minister is to visit Thailand and the United Arab Emirates also wishes to have good relations with our country," he said.

Paper Discusses Illegal Thai Workers in Japan

BK2404035193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Apr 93 p 6

[Exerpt] There are now over 70,000 Thais working illegally in Japan who have paid a huge sum of money for travel arrangements and job placements, the House Committee on Labour and Social Welfare was told on Wednesday.

Committee assistant spokesman Kuthep Saikrachang said this was reported to the committee by a representative of the Labour Skills Development Department.

The representative said only about 6,000 Thais are working in Japan legally. Of this number, 5,500 are on job training programmes and 500 were sent to work there by their employers in Thailand.

Mr Kuthep, a Phalang Tham Party MP for Si Sa Ket, quoted the department official as saying that the 70,000 illegal workers risk being caught. If found guilty, they would face up to three years in jail before being deported.

Forty-seven illegal Thai workers died in Japan last year and 26 were deported, he said.

The Police Department has suggested that stricter controls be imposed when issuing passports and visas owing to the 500 or so fake passports seized last year.

Mr Kuthep said that to solve the problem of illegal workers abroad the Foreign Ministry was pushing for the establishment of a special Consular Department whose officials would take care of Thai people in trouble overseas by legalising their stay, wherever possible. [passage omitted]

Vietnam

UN Agencies Urged To Help Lift U.S. Embargo

BK2704020393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Apr 93 p 7

[Text] Vietnam yesterday called on United Nations agencies and countries in the Asia and the Pacific region to help remove the economic embargo imposed on it by the United States.

The call was made by Bui Xuan Nhat, director of the Vietnamese foreign ministry's economic department, at the 49th session of the UN Economic and Social Conference for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

"The Government of Vietnam... wishes to request members, associate members and the Secretariat to further promote their cooperation with and assistance to

Vietnam, especially in the areas which, we think, can further facilitate our development efforts such as lifting of the embargo."

Mr Bui did not mention the US by name but it was clear, from his address to the session on problems faced by "transitional disadvantaged economies in the ESCAP region," that he was referring to it.

The transitional economies in the ESCAP region include the three Indochinese states of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, Mongolia plus the six successor states of the former Soviet Union—Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The US imposed economic sanctions against what was North Vietnam in 1964 and the rest of the country in 1975.

Mr Bui called the embargo's effect of blocking financial assistance from international lending houses a major obstruction to Vietnam's development.

The embargo bars Vietnam from access to loans from institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

"These are extremely acute difficulties that no other countries in the transitional period have undergone," Mr Bui pointed out.

Speaking to the BANGKOK POST after the meeting, he said other countries could help Vietnam by raising its plight at major international conferences such as the meeting of the IMF to be held in Washington later his month.

In addition, individual states could step up cooperation with Vietnam as it tries to improve its economy, he added.

"An increase in the cooperation with Vietnam means we have more friends and at the same time it means (the US) embargo is nothing," he noted.

"It's not easy " he said, in reference to the removal of the embargo. But he expressed confidence that it will be brought about by the Bill Clinton administration.

The US government demands full accounting of missing American servicemen as a precondition for the removal of the embargo.

The recent discovery of a document in Russian archives suggesting that Hanoi held on to hundreds of more prisoners of war than it admitted in 1972 is believed to have set back moves to this end.

But Mr Bui noted that Vietnam had achieved satisfactory progress in its reform efforts despite the embargo.

The economic performance last year, for the first time, reached the target set by the National Assembly with an increase of gross domestic product by eight per cent, he said.

In a prepared statement, the senior Vietnamese official also called for tariff and non-tariff preferential treatment to promote its exports and expand investment.

A total of 626 projects with total investment capital of some US$5.2 billion have been granted licences since Vietnam promulgated its foreign investment law in 1987.

Mr Bui admitted that Vietnam's reform efforts faced many obstacles such as high unemployment, and poor infrastructure in the banking and financial system.

But he maintained that gradual political reform was also underway in his country to ensure political and social stability and thus create favourable conditions for development.

"We have also taken political renovation step by step and harmoniously combined those economic and political changes," he said.

In the meeting, Australia and France pledged to support economic development in Indochina.

An Australian representative pointed out that Australia had allocated to Vietnam and Laos more US$16 million (?to) each country, as well as the dispatch of about 500 UN peace-keepers to Cambodia in order to bring about peace.